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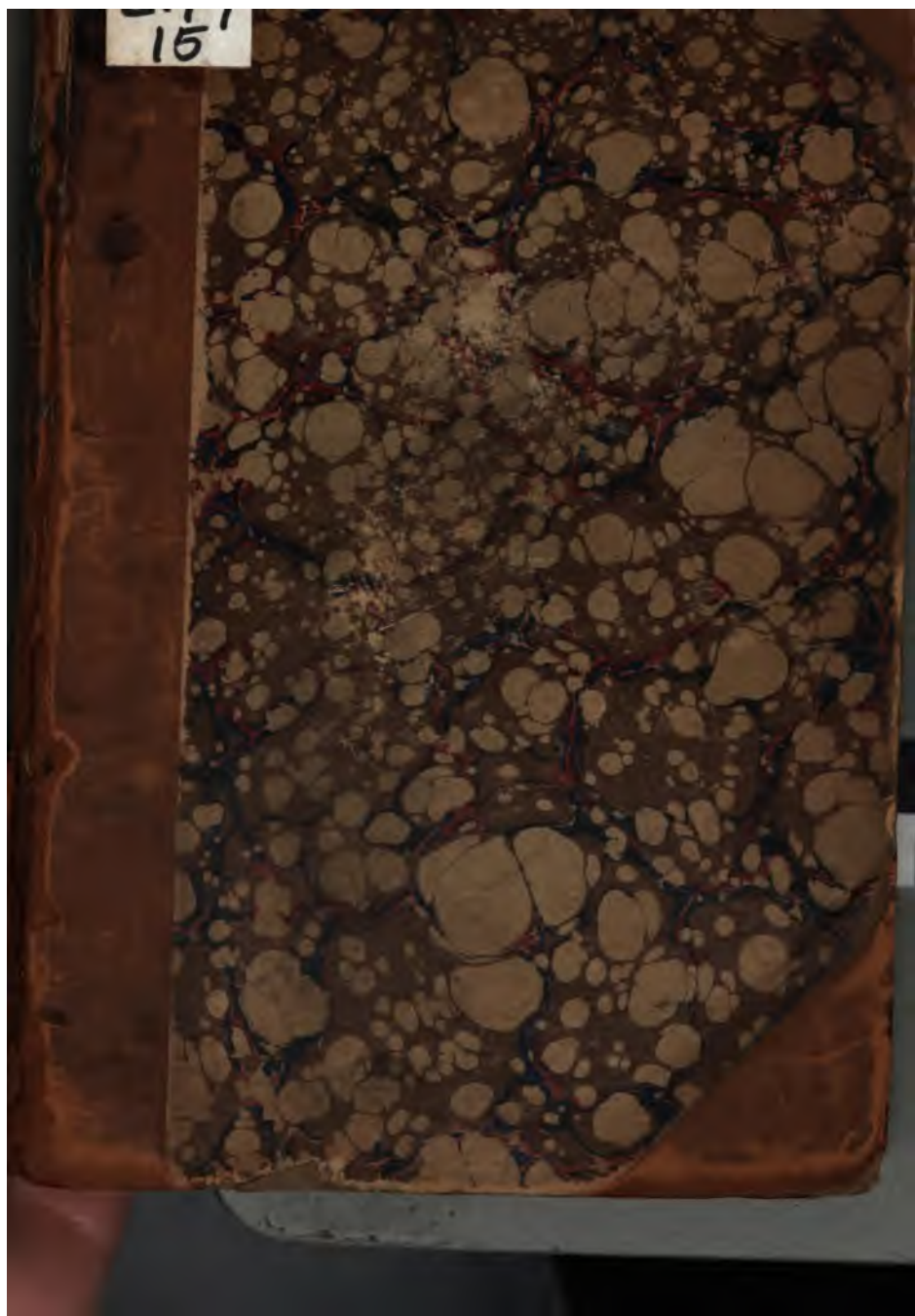
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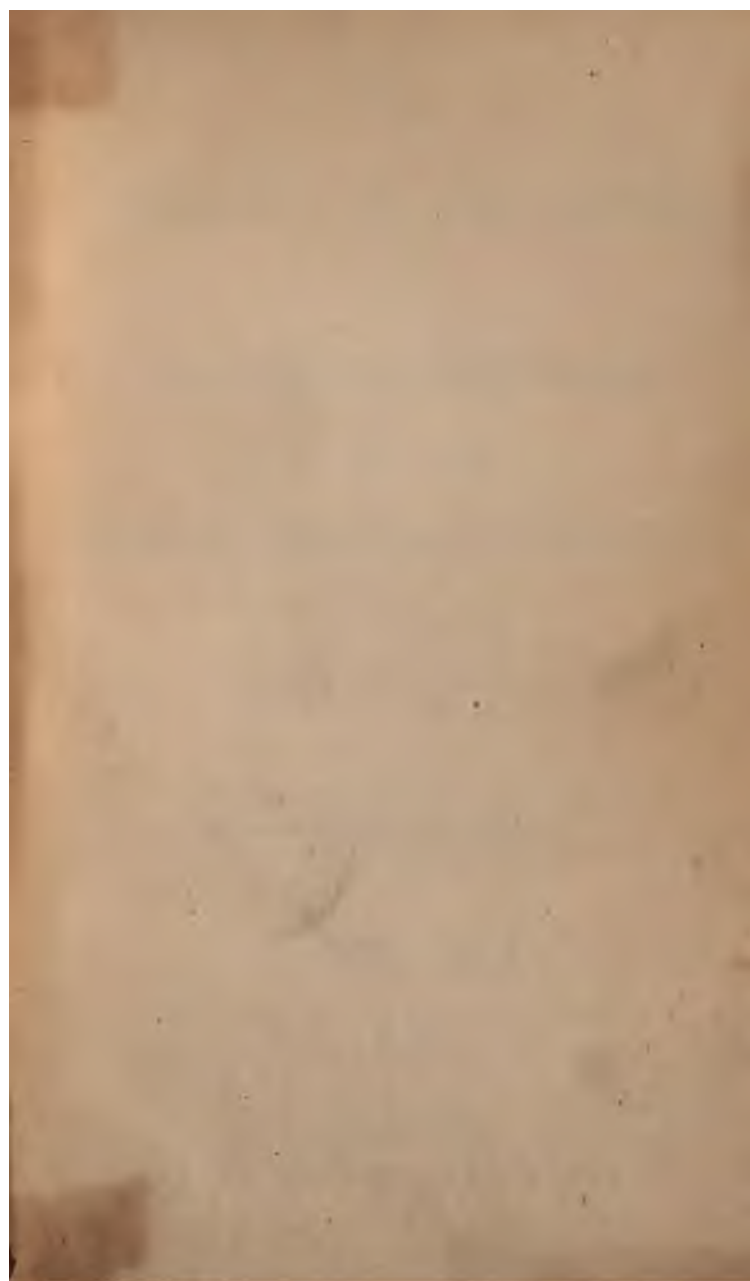
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Lecturer

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1870

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1870





THE
CHRISTIAN IN HIS CLOSET;

OR,
PRAYERS FOR INDIVIDUALS,

ADAPTED TO THE
VARIOUS AGES, CONDITIONS, AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF LIFE.

BY
CHARLES BROOKS.

"When thou prayest, enter into thy closet."—BIBLE.

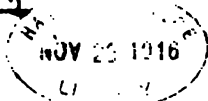
"Let never day nor night unhallowed pass,
But still remember what the Lord hath done."—SHAKS.

SECOND EDITION.

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1845.

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Dr. Henry H. ...
...

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P R E F A C E.

By request of several friends, I print in a separate volume the "Prayers for Individuals," which have made part of my larger work ; adding such new matter as seems needed at this time. My reason for this publication is, that the poor may have the book at a price reduced to its lowest terms. On this account, I have not altered the paging.

In these prayers I have wished to keep steadily before the mind of the worshipper the great doctrine of a Providence, our need of pardon, the grace of the gospel, and the practical principles of religion, as they stand connected with the common varieties of human character and condition, with man's wants and blessings, dangers and hopes. I have endeavored to furnish words in which the deepest feelings of the pure and contrite spirit may find a grateful utterance.

I would now dedicate this manual to those for whom it was prepared ; — the old, the middle-aged, and the young ; the rich and the poor ; the learned and the ignorant ; the widow and the fatherless ; the happy and the disconsolate ; the tempted and the sinning ; — in the

humble hope that wherever it goes, it may be, under Providence, the means of fixing the wandering thoughts of mortal man upon immortal objects, of cherishing in the pious mind the love of Christian virtue, and of drawing from God's holy heavens the gift of strength, charity, and submission.

C. B.

Boston, *January 1, 1845.*

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THE

CHRISTIAN IN HIS CLOSET.

PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN LIGHT.

FATHER of lights, and God of all grace, in the truest humility would I prostrate myself before thy throne. God, be merciful to me a sinner. In the name of that Divine Redeemer, who died on the cross for my salvation, I now come in my poverty to ask for celestial riches, in my blindness to ask for heavenly guidance, in my resolutions to ask an approving smile, and in my efforts to ask a Father's aid. Vouchsafe, O God, to hear the outpourings of my spirit.

I ask for light, the light of thine everlasting truth, the light that ever comes from thee, and is ever reflected in the face of Jesus Christ. As thy spirit moved, in the beginning, on the face of the waters, so let it now move over my soul, and may there be that new creation which thou canst look upon and see to be good.

It is at this moment the first and earnest prayer of my heart that I may know thee. O, grant that I may know thee as Jesus Christ knew thee, and may become one with thee on earth as he was one with thee. Fervently do I pray that I may see thee as thou art revealed in the greatness and harmony of nature, in the powers and hopes of the soul, in the love and immortality of the gospel. While the universe is filled with life, and all life tends to thee, its centre, let me feel that I am forever to live, and move, and have my being, in thee. In thy power let me see my future strength, in thy wisdom my future plans, and in thy love my future heaven. Thus, O God, reveal to me anew the sacred truth, that I am made in thine image, and should reflect it forever; and thus may I know thee, the only living and true God, whom to know is life eternal.

It is also the deep prayer of my spirit that I may know Jesus Christ. O, may I know him as the light of the world, as the true spiritual life, as the perfect representative of heaven, and as the leader in immortal hopes. I pray thee, give to my eye of faith a clearer vision of the great Redeemer. Help me to see him as the Son of God and the brother of man; as the only Mediator, and the all-sufficient Saviour; and while every day reveals him more and more to me as the representative of God on earth, and the repre-

sentative of man in heaven, may I so fully comprehend his offers of salvation, as to know that I can enjoy him only so far as I am like him.

Former of ~~my~~ body, and Father of my spirit, I pray for self-knowledge. O thou who hast caused light to shine out of darkness, do thou shine into my heart, that I may see myself as thou seest me. Help me to understand the harmony which should reign between my physical, intellectual and moral powers, and help me to hold each in its proper place. May I watch more carefully the latent springs of action, and weigh more justly the motives that move me. Let no ungoverned passion, or party prejudice, or debasing custom, have dominion over my soul. O, grant that I may have the Saviour's clear apprehension of eternal principles, and his steady purpose to follow them, so that I may be, like him, pure, holy, harmless and undefiled. Thus, O God, living in harmony with thee, in harmony with Jesus Christ, and in harmony with thy universe, may my life become an expression of thy will, as my nature is an expression of thy wisdom. O God, may I study the Scriptures by that spirit in which they were written; and do thou cause the day of heaven to dawn in my soul, and the day-star of religion to rise in my heart, so that my path, illumined by the Sun of Righteousness, may be that path of the just, which shines brighter and brighter continually.

My Father, it is the earnest wish of thy child to become a fellow-worker with thee in advancing light, holiness and love in thy world. Believing that more truth is yet to break forth from thy holy word and from the hearts of thy children, O, let me be ever ready to join the friends of Christian progress, and to do all I can to strengthen their hands and encourage their hearts. Grant, I beseech thee, that all thine offspring may breathe the Saviour's spirit, and live the Saviour's life; and thus may thy church on earth be a true reflection of the church in heaven.

Great God, from thee I came, in thee I live, to thee I tend. O, grant that the first law of my being, which binds me to thee, may lead me to love thee with all my heart, and all my soul, and all my strength; and that the second, which binds me to thy children, may lead me to love my neighbor as myself. Thus may Christ be formed in my soul, and I become heir with him in all that can be revealed in the everlasting future.

Fountain of light, enlighten my darkness;
Source of strength, strengthen my weakness;
Father of mercies, pardon my sins; God of
heaven, lead me to thyself. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR INDIVIDUALS.

SUNDAY MORNING.

LOVE OF GOD: CHRISTIAN WORSHIP.

GOD of the Sabbath, with ready devotion my soul meets the return of the morning; and I would begin the day with praise to thee who hast made me to sleep in safety. Blessed be thy name for this sacred season. Feeling the value of a day which calls off my mind from the transitory objects of earth to the durable things of eternity, I rejoice that another Sabbath invites me to religious contemplations. In the name of Him, whose glorious rising these hours commemorate, I would draw near to thee not only with my lips but with my heart, worshipping thee in spirit and in truth.

O Thou who art love and dwellest in love, enable me to feel more deeply this heavenly principle. Let thy mercies draw my whole soul to affection and thankfulness. Thou hast implanted in my spirit a need of thy truth and a need of thyself; and, glory be to thy name, thou hast taught me thy truth and taught me thyself. As a knowledge of thee is required for the full development of my nature, how do I rejoice that thou hast opened to me the great sources of intellectual advancement and moral happiness; and then

crowned thy gifts with the promise of immortality! How divine are thy works; how inspiring is thy word! What thanks, what ardent thanks would I give thee for the sacred gospel, so majestic in its simplicity, sublime in its doctrines, glorious in its objects, astonishing in its effects, immortal in its rewards! Not that we loved thee, but that thou didst love us and didst send thy Son to be the propitiation for our sins. O God, may these mercies move my heart to return to thee the offering of a reasonable faith, a lively gratitude, a cheerful trust, and a christian love. As thou art my Father may I be indeed a child of God. May I be pure, in my manner and measure, as thou art pure, holy as thou art holy, and perfect as thou art perfect, thus proving my love of thee by conforming to thine image. May I be continually feeling after thee, so that I may everywhere find thee. I desire to know more of thy character and to do more of thy will. I would see thee in the mission and works of Jesus Christ, and in the attributes of the human soul. Help me to understand what thou art and what I am. May thy care for the soul of man, lead me to an apprehension of its infinite value. Thou hast sent holy men and prophets, that they should speak to it; and at last thy Son, that he should instruct and sanctify and save it. May I show my gratitude for a Saviour, in becoming his devoted follower. O help me to imbibe his spirit of love, to adopt his principles of

obedience, and to walk in that path which is illumined by his footsteps.

Holy Father, as thou hast made me for truth, happiness, and immortality, do thou take off my eyes from beholding vanity: let me not love this world so much and thee so little; cure me of those desires which grasp at a shadow; and instead of the short-lived pleasures of time may I seek the durable joys of eternity. My earnest prayer to thee is, that amid the duties and events, the prosperities and sorrows of life, my will may ever be subject to thy will, and that I may think, act and suffer, as seeing thee who art invisible. O grant that my advancement in the graces of the christian character may be continued to the end of my pilgrimage, and then being presented before the presence of thy glory with exceeding joy, may I see thee without obscurity, approach thee without sin, serve thee without imperfection, and enjoy thee without end.

O Thou who hearest prayer, do thou bless all worshipping assemblies this day. May thy ministers preach Christ and him crucified, and may all men come to the knowledge of the truth and be saved. May the love of thee and the love of man become the ruling principles of the human soul; and thus may thy kingdom come, and thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

I would especially intercede for the heathen, beseeching thee to hasten the time, when in Jesus

Christ the hungry everywhere shall find the bread that come down from heaven, and the thirsty the pure waters of life; when the naked shall be clothed with the garments of salvation, and the prisoner visited with the liberty wherewith Christ makes his disciples free.

Merciful Parent, go with me to thy house, and let my heart this day be so touched by the holy influences of religion that my character shall be more formed by its heavenly spirit, and my life more governed by its sacred laws.

In the name of Jesus Christ I offer these my supplications, and in his own words conclude them: Our Father, &c.



SUNDAY EVENING.

LOVE OF MAN.

Our Father who art in heaven, I would give thee most humble and hearty thanks for enabling me to meet my fellow Christians in thy house of prayer; and it fills my soul with inexpressible joy that among the ten thousands who have united to celebrate thy perfections, and implore thy mercy, not one sincere and grateful worshipper is overlooked or forgotten. O Thou who seest in secret, I have retired to my closet that I may thank thee for what my eyes have seen and



my ears have heard this day. Grant that from this hour I may have a new relish for heavenly truth, new strength in holy purposes and new zeal in the christian cause. From this moment let my prejudices yield to the power of the gospel, my ears be more open to religious counsel, my heart burn with a purer devotion and my lips be tuned to a nobler praise.

At this time I would especially pray, that the great law of brotherly love may be brought to a fuller and deeper action within me. I would have it resemble as far as possible thine ever active beneficence; and while it is all my desire to be a fellow worker with thee in making thy creatures happy, grant me the intelligence to plan and the power to execute, which I so much need. I would render thee continual thanks for the example of my blessed Saviour. May the remembrance of his becoming poor that we might be rich, make me ashamed of my selfishness, and his dying that we might live, constrain me to live for immortality. O may the thought of his going about doing good, pour the breath of life into my dormant affections. Whatever else I forget may I remember this, that the best expression of my love to thee is kindness and usefulness to thy creatures. Fill my soul, I pray thee, with the true love of man; that love which Jesus felt on earth and feels now; that love which shall lead me to promote the improvement of those around

me as I promote my own; that love which shall stimulate me to every worthy acquisition in order that others may be moved by my example. Animated by this spirit, which is the spirit of heaven, may its law be ever breathed from my lips, and its energy be always visible in my life. At home and abroad may I be prompt to aid the helpless and administer to the sick, to cheer the desponding, and comfort the afflicted. May I be vigilant to prevent the unhappiness which comes from the anger and unfaithfulness, the infirmities and follies of those around me. Amidst the dangers and crosses of life, may I so meditate on thy forbearance and long suffering, that I may be moulded to thine image. Thus cherishing in my heart a fervent christian charity for all mankind, may every rising circumstance of life afford exercise to an upright, peaceful, generous and sympathetic spirit. Having thus obeyed the new commandment of Christ, may I be fitted for that pure and happy family above, where joy and kindness shall reign forever.

Again I thank thee, holy Father, for the blessings of the Sabbath. Let me not judge of my advancement in religion by the time I devote to its services, but by the happy change they produce in my temper and conduct.

Searcher of hearts, in the silence of this hour's retirement, and under the solemnities of my present devotion I now sacredly dedicate myself to

thee. Do thou accept the consecration, and give me strength to fulfil my vows.

I would retire to rest cherishing good will towards all mankind. I ask thy fatherly protection. May the shades which encompass me be as the shadow of thy wings. Let all my nights on earth be hallowed by thy blessing, and all my days devoted to thy service.

I pray thee also to protect the whole sleeping world through the hours of darkness; and graciously be with those, who, by land or sea, must wake and watch.

Indulgent God, hear my prayer through him who gave himself for us, through whom to thee be praise forever. Amen.



MONDAY MORNING.

DUTIES OF LIFE.

Giver of every temporal and spiritual good, merciful God, to that throne from which none were ever repulsed, I now come for grace to help in time of need. Refreshed in body by repose, and invigorated in mind by the services of the Sabbath, may I enter upon this new term of duty more sensible of the nature and importance of that great work thou hast sent me here to do. Enable me to strengthen my character by increasing faithfulness, and through life to maintain a conscience

void of offence towards thee and towards all men. O may the diligence and zeal of Jesus in doing his work, stimulate me this day and every day. May I learn of him to guard against the temptations which would divert me from a holy, temperate and useful course. Thou, O God, knowest the snares which beset, and the new dangers which threaten me, do thou prepare me to meet and aid me to overcome them. In thee is my strength and hope, amid the unseen and untried future. Watchful and circumspect I would enter on another week of labor, praying that I may proceed in every employment with modesty, ardor and prudence. May I never act when I can suspect the purity of my motive; and never undertake what I cannot ask thee to prosper. If any occurrence shall arise to darken or ruffle my spirits, O help me to possess my soul in patience. Under provocations from men, may I be able to preserve the meekness and gentleness of Christ. Under the pressure of cares, the failure of plans and the disappointment of hopes, grant me to retain my integrity, persuaded that all things are governed by unerring wisdom and paternal love. Let no prospect of gain ever prevail over the suggestions of reason, and the decisions of conscience. I would be pure, kind, honorable and firm, whatever be the maxims of the multitude around me. Give me understanding to perceive falsehood, and courage to withstand it. In the

hours of business and in those of relaxation, assist me to guard against those circumstances which irritate the passions, and corrupt the mind. Against every excess may I religiously protect myself, while I exhibit that decorum and self-command, which evince that I wear the christian armor. Above all, I earnestly pray that I may think, act, and endure, as seeing thee who art invisible; and with this defence may I meet without harm the temptations of life, and pass through its trying scenes without making shipwreck of faith and a good conscience. Thus may I finish my course with joy, and lay hold of that crown of righteousness which he, who overcame the world, has promised to his faithful followers.

Holy Father, let me now go forth to my employments with thy blessing on my head, and do thou aid, protect, and sanctify me through Jesus Christ. Amen.



MONDAY EVENING.

HUMILITY.

High and holy Lord our God, I desire to approach thee with just conceptions of thy character. Thou inhabitest eternity, but my age is as nothing in thy sight. The heaven of heavens cannot contain thee, but I dwell in a house of

clay whose foundation is the dust. Thy power is almighty, but I am crushed before the moth. Thy understanding is infinite, but I know not what a day will bring forth. I believe thine eye is this moment upon me. Searcher of hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ I come a penitent seeker of thy mercy; and in the calmness of this hour I would examine myself before thee, and pray for that humility required in the disciple of the meek and lowly Saviour.

In the presence of infinite purity I am reminded of my sins. I have been to thee an unprofitable servant. When I consider the wrong motives which have sometimes actuated my feelings, and the questionable rules which have governed my life; above all, when I compare what I am with what I ought to be, I am filled with shame and confusion, and am ready to throw myself on thine infinite grace, crying, God be merciful to me a sinner.

Source of strength, I now ask for that humbleness of mind resulting from a just acquaintance with thee and with myself. While I see its connexion with penitence and piety, may I also see its connexion with gratitude and goodness. Thy gifts demand a thankful heart, and thy goodness should lead me to repentance. Let them divest me of pride and clothe me with humility. When I reflect that my Saviour was rich, but for our sakes became poor, that he

humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on the cross, giving himself the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to thee, then I feel my infinite obligations, and earnestly pray, that my views of excellence may be more lofty and distinct, my conceptions of duty more noble and christian, and that hereafter I may rise to that model of perfection which appeared in my spotless Master. While the proud are boasting over their fellow men, may I banish every vain-glorious comparison, and regard myself as in the presence of Christ, our great Example. While others seek for outward adornings, let me covet the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit. O save me from the delusion of pride and self flattery, and enable me in meekness and in fear to think of myself as I ought to think. May I become more studious to deserve praise than to seek it, preferring the honor that comes from God. Let success, instead of leading me proudly to myself, lead me humbly and gratefully to thee. I pray that I may never in haughty and arrogant self-love refuse to others the honor and preeminence which belong to them; but, like my blessed Saviour washing his disciples' feet, may I be ready to perform every office which truth, humanity and usefulness demand. Enable me to turn away wrath in others by the soft and winning words in which I answer it; and if offences must come from the ungenerous and unfeeling, let me endure

them with the patient and forgiving temper of Christ. O God, impart to me that humility which dwells with true greatness, so that they who know me the most intimately may have reason to love me the most sincerely; and at last in the humbleness of a little child may I enter the kingdom of heaven.

Gracious God, hear my prayer for thy mercy's sake in Christ Jesus, through whom to thee be glory everlasting. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.

PROTECTION AGAINST ERRORS AND EVILS.

O thou who seest in secret, compassionate Father, I thank thee, that in every thing by prayer and supplication thou hast allowed me to make known my requests unto thee. In the name of Jesus Christ I draw near to thy mercy's seat, beseeching thy protection amidst the evils and exposures of life.

Preserve me, O God, from error in my religious principles. Let me not be carried about by every wind of doctrine, but holding fast the truth as it is in Jesus, may I remain steadfast and immovable under the guidance of thy spirit and the teachings of thy word. Whenever more truth shall break forth upon me from thy gospel,

may I receive it in love, profess it with joy, and obey it with fidelity.

Preserve me from rash and uncharitable judgments on those who differ from me. Let me acknowledge the rights of others as promptly as I claim my own. While I firmly assert and fully exercise my just freedom of thought, let me abhor and oppose all usurped dominion over the faith and consciences of my fellow men.

Preserve me from temptations too powerful for my virtue. Rescue me from the assaults of every spiritual enemy. Whenever passion rises in its dangerous strength, do thou be near to me. Never leave me to myself, O Lord, never forsake me. May I put on the whole christian armor, and do thou enable me to come off more than conqueror through Jesus Christ, the captain of my salvation.

O Thou who givest strength to the weak, I implore protection against every intemperate disposition and habit. Let not the table or the cup ever become a snare to me. Let my appetites be confined to the important uses for which they were implanted. O give me to hunger and thirst after righteousness, and to account it my meat and drink to do thy will. Enable me to lay aside the sin which most easily besets me, and to deny all worldly lusts. Teach me to live soberly, and to have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness.

If I must meet provocation and injury, I ask for his spirit, who, when he was reviled, reviled not again, and when he was mocked, did neither cry nor strive. May I bless those who curse me, and give place to their wrath; for vengeance, O Lord, is thine. I implore thy forgiving love on those who refuse me justice and mercy, desiring to overcome their evil with good.

Almighty God, defend me from every unclean thought, unlawful design, and turbulent action. May I never let the sun go down upon my wrath. Free my heart of envy, hatred, malice, pride, and discontent. O let my body be always subject to my soul, my senses to my reason, and my reason to thy gracious instruction; so that outwardly and inwardly I may be fully disposed to do thy will. My heart's desire and prayer is, that I may adorn with thy moral perfections the spiritual nature thou hast given me, and thus retain thy divine image in my soul.

Let it please thee, Source of all power, to answer, by a message of strength, these my earnest supplications through him who died to deliver me from this present evil world, while I ascribe to thee all honor and glory forever. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.

GRATITUDE FOR SPIRITUAL MERCIES.

Adorable Creator, thou hast made me in thine image and for thy service, and hast bound me to thyself forever by my nature and my hopes, I would now come to thank thee for the power of pursuing truth and the means of attaining happiness. Joy and gratitude are on the altar of my heart, and in the name of my Redeemer I would offer them to thee.

While I am comforted by various earthly blessings, I am reminded that I need something higher than the earth can give—an interest in thy love and a hope full of immortality. Eternal Fountain of light and truth, I will ~~take the cup of salvation~~ and call on thy name with emotions of religious wonder and devout thanksgiving, since from thee I have received all I possess, and to thee can look for all I desire.

I thank thee that the sacred scriptures have been preserved, translated and spread abroad, so that I can read in my own language the record of thy wonderful works. Thou hast never left thyself without witness; and I would now thank thee for the various disclosures of thyself through successive ages. I thank thee for the establishment of the Jewish church, and for all its resistance to surrounding idolatry. I thank thee for

holy prophets who declared thy will, and for good men who obeyed it, thus giving ardor to virtue, and confidence to truth. These mercies have been mercies to me, and may they touch the springs of pious gratitude. In my journey through life, let me thank thee for every comfort on the way; for the manna and the rock, for the tabernacle and the ark, for the cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night.

Above all, I would render thee everlasting thanks for the full, free and blessed salvation of the gospel. But what thanks can equal its heavenly blessings? In this gospel I am assured that thy spirit is the dwellingplace of pity, and thy thoughts towards man are thoughts of peace. Here I see thee waiting to be gracious, and exalted to have mercy. Here I see pardon for the guilty conscience, sanctification for the rebellious heart, and rest for the weary soul. How wise and how merciful are the conditions of acceptance! O what thanks should I return thee for thus inviting me to eat of that bread which came down from heaven, and to take of the water of life freely without money and without price! How rich is thy mercy, how paternal is thy care! Not only the doctrine but the example of thy Son speaks to my heart. His life, reflecting thy spirit from above, has shed radiance on the path of duty, on the gloom of affliction and on the bed of death. From him I learn thy will, and from him

learn how to conform to it. Through the riches of thy grace I have in him a guide who is the way, a teacher who is the truth, and a Saviour who is the life. He has come to abolish the sorrows of ignorance and sin, and to establish a kingdom of righteousness and peace. Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad, for the dayspring from on high hath visited us. O God, what return shall I make for thy spiritual bounties? Sorrowing deeply that I have valued them no more in time past, I would ardently implore, that as thy light has risen upon me, the day may dawn and the daystar of religion rise in my heart, and I become in truth a disciple of him who is the light of the world. And being allowed to rejoice in the result of his labors and sufferings, his death and resurrection, I now sacredly bow my knees in fervent gratitude to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and, in view of all thy spiritual blessings, do offer this petition, that neither death nor life, neither angels, principalities nor powers, neither things present, nor things to come, neither height nor depth nor any other creature, shall be able to separate me from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus my Lord.

Hear me, Holy Father, answer and forgive, and to thy name shall be glory evermore. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

FAITH.

High and lofty One, who inhabitest eternity, I come to thee believing that thou art, and that thou art the rewarder of those who diligently seek thee. I am not left to feel after thee in the darkness of nature, or to worship thee as the unknown God, but I can approach thee in the full assurance of faith in him who came to show us the Father.

Earnestly and devoutly would I pray for more clear and comprehensive views of thy character and will. May the numberless effects of intelligence and power, through every part of the great system of nature, lead me to adore thee as the first and universal cause. But thy goodness, O God, how great and diffusive! Communications of love are scattered through thy world; and the various ranks of being testify, that thy tender mercies are over all thy works. Without this goodness, I cannot exist or be happy. Wherever I turn, O grant that I shall see it as an object of veneration, gratitude and trust. Above all, let me feel the value of that love which sent thine only begotten Son to seek and to save that which was lost. If thou didst not spare him, thou wilt surely withhold from us no good thing.

And now I pray for a still purer faith, for a

firmer confidence, a deeper veneration and a warmer love. O let me never forget that I cannot expect the happiness which is with thee unless I am holy like thee. As a reasonable service I dedicate myself to thee cheerfully without delay and fully without reserve. May I be now and forever thine; truly a child of God.

Heavenly Father, I would also seek a livelier faith in Christ my Saviour. I would receive him with my whole heart. Lord I believe, help thou my unbelief. Permit me to see him as thy representative, bearing the act and message of pardon and acceptance from thy throne of mercy. He has declared to us the truth concerning thy moral government, and showed us how to obtain and preserve thine image in our souls. O grant that I may receive the kingdom of God as a little child.

I would also seek increasing faith in human nature as an emanation from thee, the supreme divinity. Regarding it as thy noblest work on earth, may I see its likeness to its great author, and strive to preserve for it, amid the discipline of life, the purity it brought from thy hands.

In seeking a stronger and a purer faith may I remember, that faith without works is dead. My continual desire is, that my faith may lead to a new life of humility, holiness and devotion. O may it impart more decision to my character, more vigor to my purposes, more elevation to my

hopes, more fervor to my prayers and more action to my zeal. Never let me substitute speculative opinions and outward forms for that piety which reaches to thee, and for that benevolence which goes about doing good; but, believing may I profess and professing may I practice; and thus, in every office and relation of life, may I show the loveliness, purity and power of religion.

Hear my prayer, O God, and answer me for thy mercy's sake in Christ Jesus, through whom I would ascribe to thee praise forever. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

REPENTANCE.

Merciful God, thee would I adore as the omniscient and omnipresent One. Thou hast been about my path this day and every day. Thou art acquainted with all my ways. Thou understandest my thoughts afar off. Examining myself in thy sight, I find ample cause for humiliation and sorrow. Forbid that I should ever confess sins which I do not feel, or retain those I confess. But, righteous God, when I consider what thou hast made me capable of becoming, and then recollect what I am; when I consider what thou hast made me capable of doing, and then recollect how little I have done, I am justly filled with shame and confusion of face. A broken and contrite spirit

becomes me. I would at this time fix my repentant thoughts on the sin that most easily besets me. This trespass has gone up unto the very heavens. O God, my hope is in thy mercy through a Redeemer. In his name I pray that this confession of sin may lead me so to feel it that I shall forsake it. May self-condemnation create true repentance, and I become restored to thine image and favor. I would flee to the refuge of the gospel; I would wash in that fountain and build on that foundation.

Searcher of hearts, help me to examine the inmost recesses of my soul, and to bring forth every defilement therein concealed. O God, convince me of sin. Wherein I have failed to illustrate my faith or employ my talents, to improve my condition or benefit my fellow men, do thou rouse me from this spiritual slumber and teach me the true ends of my being. Let the mists of error be dispersed that I may see thy salvation, and the fetters of sin be broken that I may enjoy the liberty of the sons of God. If I have repeatedly fallen into sin, or weakly yielded to temptation; if I have been angry without cause and beyond bounds; if I have been uncharitable, unjust, undutiful or unkind; if I have thus broken thy laws, abused thy patience and grieved thy holy spirit, do thou, who art waiting to be gracious, still keep compassion for me. I would repent in dust and ashes. I would throw myself

on thine infinite grace: God be merciful to me a sinner. Indulgent Father, I would intercede for those who are struggling against their sins. May thy strength be made perfect in their weakness. If they have rebelled against thy government or rejected the offers of thy law; if they have despised the admonitions of thy providence or the calls of thy gospel, show them I pray thee their wickedness, so that grace may reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ.

O thou who canst quicken even the dead, do thou rouse the careless sinner from his sleep that Christ may give him light.

Again I implore for myself thy divine grace. O help me to exercise that repentance which is unto life, so that I may experience the everlasting comforts of thy pardoning love in Jesus Christ my Saviour, through whom to thee be honor and thanks forever. Amen.



THURSDAY MORNING.

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OBEDIENCE.

Holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty, who lovest righteousness and lookest with favor on the upright, I would not go forth to the duties of this or any other day, without raising my soul to thee in prayer for guidance and help. I come in the



name of my blessed Saviour to seek a Parent's face and a Parent's blessing.

I would this morning especially pray, that the great principle of christian obedience in all its forms may be newly impressed on my spirit. May I see it as it stands connected with thy character and providence, with my own nature and condition, and with the laws and promises of the gospel. O may the love of thee and the love of my fellow-men be so imbedded in my soul, that obedience to these divine principles shall become the spontaneous dictate of my heart. And may I consider such obedience as the only proof of my faith and my sincerity. As righteousness is the end of the law and love the end of the gospel, may I view these as representations of thy character, knowing they are the requirements of thy will. O God, as a child of thee I desire to be pure as thou art pure, holy as thou art holy, perfect as thou art perfect, thus reflecting thine image here below, and desiring thus to reflect it forever. Mercifully grant that all my wishes, views, and efforts, may centre in what thou requirest. To this end, give me the spirit of industry in my thoughts and actions. May every day and every place be hallowed by my devotedness to truth and duty. While many are asking, what they shall eat and what they shall drink, let my inquiry be, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? Knowing that opportunities are talents, let

me not waste any one of them, but may I be earnest in spirit and never weary in well doing.

Convinced that there can be no happiness or preparation for heaven without compliance with the gospel of Christ, I now earnestly pray, that my heart may be touched by its holy influence, my character formed by its heavenly spirit, and my life governed by its perfect law. Refusing to seek another shelter, or build on another foundation, may Christ be my sufficient refuge and my strong support. O let me become so interested in the blessings of his salvation that there shall be a real and living union between his soul and mine. Let me so contemplate the holiness of his character and the divinity of his mission, that my heart shall burn within me to treasure up his words and copy his example. While he is representing me in heaven may I represent him on earth, assured that unless I have his spirit I am none of his.

God of goodness and of strength, go with me through life. I dedicate myself to thee, submitting my ways to thy guidance and my interests here and hereafter to thy disposal. I make it my earnest prayer, that all my plans, motives and sufferings, may be referred to thee. May I have thee always within my mind, do all my works in thy name and bear all calamities as thy discipline. In my enjoyments may I be temperate, in my conduct exemplary and in my good purposes im-

movable. Enable me to exhibit purity in all my words, prudence in all my plans, honesty in all my dealings, and kindness in all my relations. Give me courage in danger, fortitude in trial, resignation in adversity, and in prosperity an humble mind. Above all, give me earnestness in imploring thy grace, strength in keeping thy commands, and zeal in working out my salvation. Thus O God, in the way of heaven may I never halt, never look back, never turn to the right hand or to the left, but pressing forward to those things that are before, may my path be that of the just which shines brighter and brighter to the perfect day.

And to thee, O God, only wise, shall be glory forever through Jesus Christ. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.

SUCCESS OF BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS.

O Thou that hearest prayer, through him, who is the great Intercessor, let my prayer come before thee as incense, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. Thou hast revealed thyself in every character and relation, which can suit human necessities or encourage human hope. Thou condescendest to regard the things done on the earth, and to bless each fellow-worker with thee in the cause of beneficence.

I now come to awaken a holier zeal in my heart

by invoking thy smiles on every effort for increasing the temporal comfort, the social order, and the religious progress of society. As a member of thy great family may I feel a lively interest in whatever can affect it.

Fountain of light and hope, with devout earnestness I would implore thee to bless those societies by which the Bible may be given to the destitute and ignorant in our own land, and by which the glad tidings of salvation may be proclaimed to the heathen. Preserve the lives and increase the zeal of those who go forth to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ. Give eloquence to their lips, and the spirit of self-sacrifice to their hearts, and wherever Paul plants and Apollos waters, do thou give the abundant increase.

Regard all christian churches. May they so advance in soundness of doctrine, liberality of discipline and sanctity of life, that the church below shall resemble that above.

O Lord, rejoicing in thy promise that all the children of thy church shall be taught of God, I ask thy blessing on Sabbath schools. As the infant spirit bears the image of purity from thee, and thy word assures us that of such is the kingdom of heaven, I would earnestly pray, that the seeds of divine truth may be wisely sown in the minds of the young. May teachers feel the solemn responsibilities of their sacred office, and

may they so bring the souls of children to Christ, and so preserve thine image within them, that they shall continue thine forever.

Thou author of peace, and lover of concord, let it please thee to befriend the efforts making for the extermination of war in all its forms. O hasten the time when the lusts and passions of men shall be subdued to the dominion of the gospel, and the children of thy great family shall love one another as Christ loved us all.

I pray thee, compassionate Father, to strengthen the hands that would arrest the progress of intemperance in the world. Let men no longer turn to the service of corruption and misery, those noble powers which were made for knowledge, liberty, holiness and heaven. May the prodigal arise and return to his Father, that the morally dead may be alive again, and the lost may be found.

Finally, O God, I seek thy smiles on all institutions for promoting public or private welfare. Graciously bless our families, our schools, and colleges, our nation and its rulers. O grant that profound science, public and domestic order, civil and religious freedom, pure and enlightened religion may be the stability and glory of our times. May thy kingdom of truth, righteousness and peace come, and the heavens and the earth be filled with thy glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.

PARAPHRASE OF THE LORD'S PRAYER.

Our Father who art in heaven, of whom and for whom and by whom are all things, how grateful should I feel that in seeking thee I seek the face and favor of a wise and good Parent. Thou art the light of every heart that sees thee, the strength of every mind that knows thee, and the life of every soul that loves thee. Hallowed be thy name. I would manifest my reverence for thy perfections, by seeing and knowing and loving thee as I ought; and do thou engage my whole soul to worship thee in spirit and in truth, and to honor thee in life and in death.

May thy kingdom come. May christian faith, holiness, and hope, spread through the nations, and all thy children own their allegiance and rejoice in thy Son. O let error lose its sway and vice its power, and let men bring every thought into subjection to the principles of truth, freedom, and peace. Thus may thy will be done by thy family below, as it is done by the angels who compose thy family above.

Giver of all good, thy word allows me to pray for temporal blessings; yet I would not ask for uninterrupted prosperity, or dangerous riches, or seducing honors, but that thou wouldst this day and every day feed me with food convenient for

me. So far as to thy wisdom it may seem best, let my state on earth be comfortable and my days tranquil and easy. Shield me from frequent and extreme distress. Let the enjoyment of those relatives and friends the most dear to me be still continued, and when thou shalt see fit to withdraw them, graciously support me under the loss, and grant that all events may be rendered subservient to my progress in piety, wisdom, and virtue.

God of compassion, forgive my offences as I also forgive them who wrong me. Being merciful to others may I find thy mercy; and may it be my joy to present this request with that forgiving temper towards those who have offended me, which thou requirest of all them who would obtain thy pardon. I would continually mourn over my sins with a godly sorrow; and feeling it as important to be restored to thine image as to be reinstated in thy favor, I pray for that repentance which is unto life.

God of strength, bring me not into temptation, but deliver me from evil. Subject me not to trials through which I cannot pass unharmed. May the circumstances of life be no longer the occasions of sin, but the sources of improvement. Never leave me, O Father, never forsake me. Let pride, envy, and sloth, let hypocrisy, unkindness, and lust, be put far from me, while my temper and habits become those of thy kingdom.

God of my spirit, my time here is short. May I set that value on my soul which thou hast put upon it by creation and redemption. Coming from thee at first, and destined to return to thee at last, may I consider its dignity and durability, and resolve to secure its salvation, whatever present pleasures are to be resigned, or whatever temporal sufferings are to be endured. And having, through thy assisting grace, discharged the duties of life with uprightness and sincerity, may I be prepared to meet its last closing scene without sorrow or dismay. After a tranquil exit from this world, may I find myself, through thine infinite mercy in a Redeemer, in those mansions of everlasting rest and peace which my Saviour has gone to prepare for his faithful followers; and there, with a purer worship than belongs to earth, may I ascribe to thee the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.

AN INTEREST IN GOD AND TRUTH.

Father of mercies and God of all grace, by the return of this hour of devotion, thou hast again said, 'Seek ye my face;' and my heart would answer, 'Thy face Lord will I seek.' But how deeply do I lament that I have known so little of thee, and have wandered so far from thy truth

How faint are my impressions of thy greatness and glory! Thou hast presented to my view the vast frame of nature as a standing monument, a perpetual remembrancer of thy creating power, thy infinite wisdom, and eternal goodness. Thou hast made me capable of contemplating the wonderful fabric of the heavens, their august magnificence, immeasurable extent and beneficial influences. Thou hast hereby given me a lively representation and an unquestionable demonstration of thy boundless immensity and diffusive love. Thou hast placed me where I see thy power and munificence perpetually employed in raising up, supporting and blessing innumerable families of thy creatures around me. To me thou hast given an organized body bearing evident marks of divine wisdom and kind intention in every part of it. In this body thou hast placed, as the truest image and surest proof of thyself, a rational, thinking principle, capable of endless improvement in knowledge and in virtue. O God, to these thy works, thou hast added thy word, containing the clearest discoveries of thy will, and the express command for us to love, and fear, and serve thee. But, alas! all these striking manifestations of thyself, have made but feeble and transient impressions on my heart. It is this that I mourn. I have been slumbering over the proofs of thy care and bounty. The superficial, transitory pleasures, the uncertain riches and

the fading honors of this vain world, employ my understanding, strike my imagination, and captivate my heart, whilst thy perfect excellence, unbounded goodness, and eternal providence, are strangely disregarded, or thought of by me with cold indifference.

O Thou who canst cause even the dead to come forth, do thou arouse me from this spiritual lethargy. Let me no longer be hardened and blinded. Look in tender compassion on thy frail and forgetful child, who turns to thee with a sorrowing and penitent heart. O give me henceforth such clear and affecting views of thy glory and excellence, as shall kindle within me a flame of love that can never be extinguished. Penetrate my heart with such a realizing sense of thy goodness, as shall stir up my whole soul to praise and bless thy holy name forever and ever.

Gracious God, I would further pray, for a more enlarged love of my fellow men. Subdue the workings of proud and selfish passions; and while I strive to cherish my Saviour's sympathy, may I feel a perpetual flow of good will towards all around me.

I pray for a deeper interest in thy truth. O help me to see the divinity that beams from thy works, and to feel the inspiration that flows from thy word. It is the consolation and support of my mind amidst the sorrows of sin, and the terrors of judgment, that thou hast sent thy Son to

be a Saviour of the penitent. My heart's desire and prayer is, that he may be a Saviour to me, and that I may honor him by my lips and life. O help me to resemble him in his amiable dispositions, his holy zeal, his humility, firmness and benevolence; and, like him, enable me to bear the sorrows of earth in hope of the joys which shall never change. O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; and thine shall be the glory forever. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.

RIGHT USE OF MEANS.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless his holy name: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. I would record thy loving kindness, O God, showed to me in my creation, preservation, and the various comforts of this life. Thou hast given me the powers of reason, and the means of education; thou hast given me Christianity with its doctrines and hopes; thou hast given me the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's supper; and by reading, meditation and prayer, thou hast enabled me to know and use these means of grace. With renewed earnestness I would now pray, that each one of them may be so valued by me that I shall lose no opportunity or power for advancing myself in knowledge, holiness, and piety. My time and

talents are from thee; to thee I would devote them.

O Thou who didst command light to shine out of darkness, irradiate my mind with all useful truth, that I may employ my reason well in pursuing the great objects of existence. I would lift up my voice for understanding and search for it as for hidden treasures, that I might find out wisdom and the fear of thee. Give me a modest, calm, and teachable spirit. Let me look on ignorance as the soul's nakedness and shame; and on the corruption of my principles as my highest infelicity. I earnestly desire to see divine things in the light thou hast imparted to them; and while they inform my judgment may they sanctify my heart.

Aid me, Holy Father, in the use of every christian means. As the disciple of a dying Saviour may I die unto sin; as the disciple of a risen Redeemer may I walk in newness of life; and as the disciple of an ascended Intercessor may I set my affections on things above. O let my soul cleave to the gospel as the consecrated means of its spiritual prosperity. May Christ be very precious to me. Let his glory fill my mind and his love reign in my heart; and at his cross and at his tomb may I burn with new ardor to live to him who died for me.

I thank thee for the table of the Lord; and with the sensible tokens of my Saviour's love may

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I ever connect his labors, sufferings, and triumph, his legacy of peace, and his promise of help. May a vital union be established there between him and myself; he the head and I a member, he the vine and I a branch, he the chief corner stone and I a lively stone built into a spiritual house, an habitation of God, through the spirit.

Help me to improve more and more the blessings of public worship. May the Sabbath be my delight, a season of refreshing from thy hand. May its private moments be sacred, and its social ones edifying. O let me not perish under the means designed to save me; but let the Sabbath banish the spirit of the world from my bosom and fill me with all the fulness of God.

Increase my zeal in the support of religious institutions; and let there be inscribed *holiness unto the Lord* on my understanding and will, on my senses and desires, on my time and substance, on my words and actions. Gracious God, the continual prayer of my heart is, that learning and science, civil and religious liberty, social blessings, and gospel privileges, may be the means of sanctification and happiness to every family, tribe and nation.

But, O Father, forbid that I should be satisfied with any knowledge or faith or professions or feelings in religion, while my heart is void of thy love and a stranger to that grace which bringeth

salvation. I would therefore urgently pray, that the spirit of devotion may actuate me in the absence of its forms; and may my faith be always proved by my works. Thus honoring thee by the life I shall live, may I glorify thee by the death I shall die, and finally be admitted to the use of nobler means, the performance of higher duties, and the enjoyment of sublimer hopes, in thy heavenly kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.

TIME—DEATH—FUTURITY.

Lord of life, who alone art from everlasting, without beginning of days or end of years, I rejoice that amid the continual changes of this my uncertain existence, I can look to thee who art the same forever. Almighty Preserver, I would raise this evening a fresh memorial, for thou hast lengthened out my days, thou hast led me thus far, and I now would return thee joyful thanks for that health which has made life happy. For another week thy light has shone upon me and thy strength has upheld me: for another week thy bounties have gladdened my heart and thy mercies have cheered my dwelling: for another week the offers of salvation have been repeated in my ears and the Son of thy love has sought admission to my heart. For all these daily benefits,

O Lord, what shall I render thee? If I have shown any dulness in estimating thy favors, or any backwardness in obeying thy calls, convince me of my sin, and rouse me to repentance and activity.

While this hour invites me to review life, it awakens in my soul the prayer, that I may set a still higher value on time, remembering that all, which I yet hope to accomplish, must be done in the few days of the uncertain future. In what is well begun enable me to persevere, what I have done amiss lead me to amend, and what I have left undone stimulate me to perform. Above all, give me grace to redeem time, and so to number my days, that I may apply my heart to religious wisdom.

Heavenly Monitor, prepare me for death. My last week, my last day, my last hour must come. O let them not find me in spiritual slumber, but with the lamp of religion trimmed and burning ready to meet my Lord. As it is more solemn to live than to die, may I continually keep in mind the great work I am sent here to do. Forbid that I should ever grow weary in the way of heaven, but grant that my race may be run with patience and my course finished with joy.

God of heaven and of earth, while I supplicate strength to bear the ills of life, and zeal to perform its duties, I would most urgently pray that its close may be crowned with hope. Though I

am born of the dust, and kindred to the grave, thou hast assured me by Jesus Christ that when I die out of this world I pass on to immortality. Forever blessed be thy name for these glad tidings. Living would I rejoice and dying would I hope. O God, it is my first desire to live for the eternal world; and as thou hast connected that world with the present, may I constantly keep in mind the great truth, that character here determines condition hereafter. The longer I live the more earnestly would I pray, that I may wear on earth those robes of righteousness which are required in heaven. O make me fully sensible that the events and trials of every week and every day have their influence on the never-dying affections of the soul. May I therefore feel that eternity is connected with every act, emotion, and resolve. O God, grant that, like my Saviour, every motive with me may be pure, every desire holy, and every hope divine. I would be nothing but what thou wouldst have me to be; I would do every thing thou wouldst have me to do, and suffer all which thy wisdom may ordain. Thine let me be through life, thine let me be at death, and thine in eternity.

Holy Watchman of thy people, I would begin and end every thing with thee. As the hours of another week are closing, let me realize that I am brought so much nearer to thy judgment seat, and that even this night my soul may be required of

mè. If agreeable to thy wisdom, may I be spared to be useful in the world; yet not my will but thine be done. Heavenly Parent, during this and every other night allowed me here, let me be sheltered by thy protecting care, refreshed by quiet sleep, and fitted for the duties of each coming day.

And now unto thee, the only wise God, who art able to keep me from falling, to lead me in the paths of innocence and peace, to feed me with the bread and the water of life, and finally to bring me in joy to thy heavenly presence, to thee be glory, homage and dominion forever. Amen.



SUNDAY MORNING.

Glory be to God in the highest; on earth peace; good-will to men! With the host of heaven who celebrate thy praise, I would join my feeble offering on earth. I thank thee for the light of this day of rest. With grateful joy I hail the return of a season, consecrated to the special exercises of piety, the instructions of religion, and the outward worship of thee our God. Welcome to my soul are its holy recollections. In the tranquillity of this hour I would offer to thee the sacrifice of a calm, a grateful and a confiding spirit. Look down, my Father, on thy frail and forgetful child, who would raise an adoring eye

to the throne of thy mercy. The opening day reminds me of that Saviour, who broke the bands of death and rose triumphant from the grave. O that I might be quickened together with him, and raised from the death of sin to a life of righteousness! Giver of every spiritual good, I thank thee for thy various communications through prophets of old; but most of all, for the unclouded revelation of thy character and will, thy government and grace, through Jesus Christ thy Son. Thou hast brought me near to thyself by these mercies, and given me everlasting consolation. I would cherish increasing gratitude for a religion which is intended to develope my whole nature after the likeness of thine own, to direct every intellectual and moral energy, to confirm the principles of righteousness, charity and peace, to make me resigned in every allotment of thy providence, to fill me with hopes which stretch through all future time, and thus to connect me with all the happiness which there can be in heaven.

My heart's desire and prayer is, that I may make a wise and diligent use of all the means of grace. Help me to understand, to recollect and to apply the doctrines and laws of Christianity. Holy Father, it is my first wish to know thee aright; and may I rise this day to such contemplations of thy character, as shall produce in me the deepest veneration, the purest love, the liveliest hope and the sublimest joy. May the sense

of thy surrounding presence go every where with me to enlighten and guide me, to shield me from presumptuous sins, to keep me in thy faith and fear, to prevent my offending in thought, word, or deed against thee, the omnipotent and holy One. Every Sabbath that I witness may I feel myself more closely connected with thee, and more dependent on thy favor; every step I take in my pilgrimage may I have reason to think I am drawing so much nearer to thee, and to thy heavenly dwelling-place. I pray thee to direct my examination of thy word. I would read it with a strong desire of understanding its meaning and imbibing its spirit. O that its doctrines might inform, its warnings caution, its rules guide, and its promises comfort me, till I receive the end of my faith, even the salvation of my soul.

Great God, I implore thy blessing on all who may worship thee this day, whether in public or private; assured that not one humble prayer will be unheard or forgotten by thee. Accompany the reading of thy word with the power of thy spirit; and do thou give to thy ministers knowledge and sound doctrine, that they may preach, not themselves, but Jesus Christ the Lord. Go with me to thy house; and may I faithfully devote to thee the hours thou hast consecrated to thyself. Suffer not my thoughts to be distracted or my devotions to languish. O let not the affections which should be engaged in the holy exer-

cises of the day, be still returning to the cares and interests of a transitory world; but may I present my prayers to thee with the humble hope of thy gracious acceptance, and with perfect charity for all mankind; may I confess my sins with true contrition, and listen to the instructions of thy gospel with seriousness and docility: and may I consider that every Sabbath has an influence on the never-dying affections of the soul. Having used wisely the means of grace, and having delighted to praise and serve thee in thy courts below, grant, I fervently pray thee, that I may be found worthy to meet the angels of light, the just made perfect, the saints of all ages and all worlds before thy throne above, there to celebrate thy perfections, to enjoy thy favor, and to magnify that love which has called us to glory and virtue through Jesus Christ. Amen.



SUNDAY EVENING.

O thou who hearest prayer, my God and Father, with child-like confidence I approach thee as a Being who lovest the souls that thou hast made; who art more ready to give than I am to ask, and who hast no object before the happiness of thy creatures. At the close of this holy day I have entered my closet, that I might thank thee for the privilege I have enjoyed of meeting my

brethren in the house of worship ; and to implore that this may not be among the Sabbaths I have lost. While many have to pursue their spiritual interests under the frown of the world and at the hazard of life ; and many more are called to bow down at the altar of idols and burn incense to those who are no gods, how thankful should I be that my lot is cast under the bright beams of the glorious gospel, in a land of civil and religious liberty, where I can worship thee according to the dictates of my own conscience. A day in thy courts is better than a thousand. O let it not be in vain that I have lifted up my thoughts to thee in the christian assembly, and listened to the voice of instruction. I fervently pray, that whatever good impressions have been made upon me may be durable ; whatever good resolutions I have formed may be steadfastly kept ; the errors which I have confessed may be immediately corrected, and that every devout aspiration I have breathed in the sanctuary may be remembered in the world, to guard me against temptation, and preserve me holy and undefiled. Enable me to become the true follower of Jesus in all things ; to clothe myself with his humility, purity, and benevolence. Let thy will, as it was his, be mine also. Like him may I go about doing good. May the contemplation of his character, and imitation of his example, bring me constantly nearer to his own perfection, and to those mansions of

everlasting happiness which he has promised to his disciples, and gone before to prepare for them.

Righteous Father, thou needest not my confession to inform thee of my guilt ; for thine eye has been always on my path. When I compare myself with the spotless purity of thy law as I have heard it this day declared, I am filled with shame and sorrow. Sighs and tears and promises will not answer the demands of thy word. Holy God, with what can I come before thee ? I must fly to that covenant of mercy which my Saviour has sealed with his blood. Through him I ask for that repentance which is unto life, and through him I cast myself on thy infinite compassion ; God, be merciful to me a sinner. From the shame and burden of guilt, I would turn to thee who art my glory and comfort. Convince me of my greatest need, and show me the only remedy. I ask thy gracious spirit ; be thou the giver and the gift. Enstamp thy divine image on my soul, that I may henceforth be altogether thine. As thou hast allowed me to call thee Father, may I render the obedience and cherish the love of a child. As I came from thee, I would live in thee, so as to return to thee at last in glory. Gird me with strength for thy holy service. I would throw myself into the arms of thy mercy, and offer thee my whole being, my body and my soul, praying that they may be thy chosen temple. O my God, take me entirely into thy hands with all

that I have, and let nothing henceforward, either in life or death, ever separate me any more.

But I pray not for myself alone. Bless those who have heard thy gospel this day; and whatever seeds of truth may have fallen into their hearts, do thou cause to take deep root and be abundantly fruitful. Shed thy rich blessing on the ministers of religion, and may the hallowed fire of the altar touch and purify their lips. Bless Christians of every sect; and may they all proclaim their faith by their good works, and recommend by charity and devotion the gospel they profess. Strengthen the hand which is extended to present the Bible to the heathen; and may the happy time soon come when the fulness of the Gentiles shall be brought in, and all Israel shall be saved; when the knowledge of the Lord shall fill the earth, as the waters fill the channels of the deep.

Heavenly Parent, I would pray for all my kindred and friends. Let it please thee to do good unto them all. To those who err, show thy truth; and those who seek it, keep from error. To those who do amiss, give resolution to do better; and those who do well, continue in well-doing. To those who are afflicted, give comfort and deliverance; to those who prosper, humility and temperance. Bless the sick with health; and keep those in health from sickness. Supply those who are in want; and let those who want

not, give supply. To all grant thy grace, O God, and show thy mercy. Let love bind us one to another, and religion knit us all to thee ; that however we suffer or scatter on earth, we may live and be in joy together in the felicity of heaven.

God of the night and of the day ; my kind Preserver ; watch over me during my defenceless hours. Let my sleep be quiet and my rest refreshing ; and when the beams of the morning visit my waking eyes, do thou lift upon me the light of thy countenance. And when this succession of days and nights shall be no more, receive me to that world where I may know and love and serve thee through a cloudless, a happy, and an eternal day. Amen.



MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER.

O thou, who seest in secret ; God of my life and Fountain of my hope ; as the lover of the souls thou hast made, I come before thee now in the all-prevailing name of Jesus, the Mediator.

Holy Father, I would regard thy laws as my unerring guide ; thy goodness, as the theme of my constant praise ; thy mercy, the object of my ready trust ; thy universal providence, the subject of my highest joy ; the securing of thy favor, my utmost ambition ; and the imitation of thy holi-

ness as the end and aim of all my actions. Without thee I am weak and needy. I have nothing but what I received from thee. I can do nothing without thy strength, and see nothing without thy light. I came from thee at first, I live in thee now, I return to thee at last, and I must depend on thee forever.

In reviewing the unmerited kindness which has crowned my days, I am furnished with the strongest motives for praising thy name, and for placing an unbounded trust in thy faithfulness and love. Before I could raise my thoughts to thee, before my heart could feel its obligations, or my tongue express them, thou wast my never-failing friend. Thou hast brought me to riper years ; assigned to me my lot in life ; conferred private and social mercies on me, and caused even disappointments to be salutary. Thy favors have been repeated as fast as the fleeting moments of my life ; they are more than I can number. O God, strengthen my memory to recollect them ; awaken my sense of gratitude ; teach me justly to value, thankfully to acknowledge, and wisely to improve them. In view of all thy bounties, I offer this urgent prayer, that I may be faithful to my reason and conscience, faithful to my opportunities and means, faithful to thee, to others, and myself. As thou hast placed me in this introductory world, to learn the first lessons and form the first habits preparatory to higher duties, nobler enjoyments and

sublimar hopes in heaven, may I use the discipline of life with wise reference to immortality, remembering that the views and habits of to-day may have a never-dying influence on the happiness of my soul. O may it be found at my death, that I have cherished the principles and affections of heaven while here, and ~~am~~ fitted to enter upon the extended revelations and the angelic duties of thy spiritual kingdom. Endowed by Christianity with all that mind can desire or immortality promise, may I represent my Saviour on earth as he represented thee ; knowing, that I must be pure, holy and perfect as he was, before I can be admitted to the full enjoyment of what he has offered to his disciples. Fountain of light, enlighten my darkness ; Source of strength, strengthen my weakness ; Father of mercies, pardon my sins ; God of heaven, lead me to thyself. Amen.

MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER.

O thou who hast borne so long with me, and done so much for me ; merciful God, whom to know is my highest wisdom, and whom to worship is my noblest service ; retiring from every mortal eye, with a mind raised above all mortal cares, I would contemplate thy perfections and rejoice in thy love. Thou reignest, and all is

well. Thy government is that of perfect love, directed by unerring wisdom, and carrying its measures into effect by resistless power. Although no finite mind can comprehend the glories of thy nature, yet every finite being can repose in the thought, that they consist in infinite, eternal and unchangeable perfection.

Deeply impressed by these animating and consolatory truths, may I dismiss every anxious, selfish and repining thought; may I welcome with a thankful and contented temper the allotments of thy providence, and indulge no wish but to resolve my pleasure into thine; and, by a strict conformity to the eternal laws of truth and goodness, may I become the voluntary instrument of accomplishing thy designs. Give me contentment and a quiet spirit; give me devout affections and heavenly hope; give me patience and humility, a firm faith and a prudent zeal. Let not sin leave its destructive effects on my feelings or affections, whereby the image in which I was created shall be defaced; but let me effectually shun that precipice to which sin would lead me, and tread that path of the just which leads to endless safety and joy. O God, grant that every thought of my mind, every feeling of my heart, every word of my tongue, and every action of my life may be such as will bear the impartial scrutiny of thy tribunal. And having been faithful unto death, may I hear at last the joyous approval, 'Well

done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of thy Lord.' Hear me, O my Father, through him who lived and died for us, and to thee I would render unceasing praise. Amen.



MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER.

Omniscient and omnipresent Jehovah, the morning opens with the beams of thy glory, and the day closes to record thy loving kindness. My Father and Friend, I would reverence and love thee above all the objects of my regard. My Benefactor, I would be thankful for thy bounties, and joyfully confide in thy providence. My final Judge, I would study to approve myself in thy sight.

May I ever keep it in mind that the happiness and improvement of those around me must depend, in some degree, on my temper and deportment. I would be a fellow-worker with thee in diffusing good. Let all bitterness and wrath and evil speaking and all malice be put far from me. Let not my lips move when there is no answer from the heart. Save me from the sins of the formalist and hypocrite. If I have been unjust or unkind to those with whom I live, and have neglected to do them the good which I might; if I have showed no willingness to instruct the young, to reclaim the vicious, and for-

tify the pure ; if I have taken thy name upon a thoughtless or an angry tongue, and by my life have given no sanction to christian ordinances : if any of these sins belong to my soul, O God most holy, I pray for that deep, unfeigned sorrow which shall end in the needful change of heart and conduct. And do thou, who hast promised to accept true penitence in thy returning children, help me in future to be what my social and immortal nature requires. Wherever my lot is cast, and whatever my situation or rank in life may be, whether public or private, social or solitary, of more enlarged or contracted influence, may I be equally careful to discharge every part of duty to thee, to myself and to others. I desire to be a Christian in spirit and in deed. May I steadily imitate my Saviour ; his purity, his humility, his meek, peaceful and friendly temper, his entire resignation to thy will, his diligence in doing good and finishing his work. Thus let my soul reflect the image and happiness of heaven ; and do thou at last receive me to that world, where weakness and danger, sorrow and sin shall find no room.

God of my life, thou holdest all causes in thy hand ; let it please thee to guide my steps through all the changes of time and nature. Smile upon me in my going out and my coming in ; in my rising up and in my lying down ; in thy house and in my own ; in my lawful business and in

my innocent recreations. When I enter on a new day give me wisdom to plan, zeal to pursue, and power to finish its allotted labors ; and when night closes in upon me, may I repose under the powerful protection of Israel's Watchman, who never slumbers nor sleeps. Hear and answer, O Lord my God, for thy mercy's sake in Christ Jesus. Amen.

MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER.

I believe in thee, O my God, do thou strengthen my faith. I hope in thee, confirm my hopes. I love thee, invigorate my love more and more. I repent of my sins, but do thou increase my repentance. As my beginning, I worship thee ; as my end, I long for thee ; as my eternal Benefactor, I praise thee ; as my supreme Protector, I pray unto thee, that it may please thee, O Lord, to guide and lead me by thy providence, to keep me in obedience to thy justice, to comfort me by thy mercy, and to protect me by thy almighty power. I submit to thee all my thoughts, words, and actions, as well as my afflictions, pains, and sufferings ; and I desire to have thee always in my mind, to do my works in thy name ; and for thy sake to bear adversity with patience. I will nothing but what thou wilt, O God, because it is agreeable to thee. O give me grace that I may

be attentive in my prayer, temperate in my diet, vigilant in my conduct, unmovable in all good purposes. Grant, most merciful Lord, that I may be true and faithful to those who have entrusted me with their secrets; that I may be courteous and kind toward all men, and that both in my words and actions I may show them a good example. Dispose my heart to admire and praise thy goodness, to hate all errors and evil works, to love my neighbor, and to benefit the world. Assist me, great God, in subduing lust by mortification, covetousness by liberality, anger by mildness, and lukewarmness by zeal. Enable me to conduct myself with prudence in all transactions, to show courage in danger, patience in adversity, and in prosperity an humble mind. Let thy grace illuminate my understanding, direct my will, sanctify my body and purify my soul. Make me diligent in curbing irregular affections, zealous in imploring thy grace, careful in keeping thy commandments, and constant in working out my salvation. Finally, O God, make me sensible how little is the world, how great thy heavens, how short is time, and how long will be the blessed eternity. O that I may prepare myself for death; avoid the torments of a guilty conscience, and obtain of thee, merciful Father, eternal life through my blessed Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER.

Expressed in Scripture Language. -

High and lofty One who inhabitest eternity; thou, the Lord God, art one, and besides thee there is no God. Thou doest thy will in the armies of heaven above, and among the inhabitants of the earth below. Power belongeth unto thee; in thee is everlasting strength. Thine understanding is infinite; thou art light, and in thee is no darkness. Holy art thou, O Lord in all thy works; just and true are all thy ways, thou King of saints. Thou, the Lord, art good, and thy tender mercies are over all thy works. Thou art in every place. If I ascend into heaven, thou art there; if I make my bed in the grave, lo! thou art there; if I take the wings of the morning and fly to the uttermost parts of the sea, even there thy hand shall lead me and thy right hand shall hold me. Thou art love, and art not willing that any should perish. In thee, O Lord, I put my trust, and in thee I will forever rejoice. Although the fig-tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vine; the labor of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flocks shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stall, yet will I rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

I give thanks to the God and Father of our

Lord Jesus Christ, for blessing me in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. I thank thee, that for this end he was born and for this cause came he into the world, that he might bear witness to the truth; and I believe he is the Christ, the Son of the living God. I would believe his words when he tells me, that as thou didst give him commandment so he spake; that his doctrine was not his, but thine who sent him; and that the works were not his, but were done by thee, the Father, who dwelt in him. I pray to be like him pure, holy, harmless and undefiled. Let me not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of my mind. Let all malice be put far from me, and never let the sun go down upon my wrath. O let me set my affections on things above, and not on things below, that when Christ, who is my life, shall appear, I may appear with him in glory.

Holy Father, enable me to love my neighbor as myself. May I do to others as I wish they should do to me. As far as I have opportunity may I do good to all men. As far as lieth in me, may I live peaceably with all men; remembering that no man liveth to himself. Do thou be my God in life, my hope in death, and my portion forever. Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be glory and praise, world without end. Amen.

FOR A COMMUNICANT.—MORNING.

Before the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ; I adore thine unspeakable goodness in raising up this Deliverer from sin and death, for a benighted and guilty world. I praise thee for the spiritual and heavenly blessings which thou hast bestowed on me through his mediation, sufferings, and resurrection. What gracious instruction flowed from his tongue! What spotless purity marked his life! What love and zeal filled his heart! With what patience and kindness did he seek those who were lost! What astonishing miracles attested his mission! What benevolence was exhibited in his painful death on the cross! How triumphantly did he conquer the grave and ascend to thy throne in heaven! Indulgent God, how complete is his redemption, how attracting and transporting the thought of his compassion and victory! What light, what comfort, what encouragement, what hope can I need, which the Gospel of Christ does not abundantly supply?

— O thou who seest in secret, I confess I am unworthy of my christian privileges, and that I have not adorned my profession, as I ought, by a holy walk and a fervent zeal. In condemning myself I feel I must be condemned by thee. I lament the errors and lukewarmness which have brought this sorrow to my soul and may have

brought reproach on the holy cause of my Redeemer. Spare me, O Father, through him that died for me. Through thine infinite goodness, in Jesus Christ, have compassion upon my sins, and give me that repentance which is unto life.

To-day thou invitest me to the memorial of my Saviour's dying love. May I examine myself, and keep this christian passover with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. May I regard the Supper as a means, not as an end. May I hear the invitation of Jesus, and go to his table with lively faith and pure gratitude. May I approach as a prepared guest clad in the wedding garments of purity and love. Hungering and thirsting after righteousness, may I receive the bread and wine as emblems of his body broken and his blood poured out for me. I would go to his table as one, who is sick, to his great Physician. Let me worthily receive the elements, and fill me, O Lord, with that spiritual food of which they are the outward signs. May Christ be so made known to my soul in the breaking of bread, that evil affections may die in me, and all things belonging to the Spirit may live and grow. May I embrace the covenant of mercy and find redemption through him. O let the remembrance of his love, his sufferings, his death and his glory, comfort, support and strengthen me in life and in death. Heavenly Father, be thou with thy servant who ministers in the sanctuary, with my

fellow communicants, and with all my christian brethren. Dispose all who encircle thine altar, to feel and act as friends, partakers of the same grace, and heirs of the same blissful inheritance. And by these spiritual refreshments may thy church be nourished and strengthened, till every member be fitted for the company of the just made perfect, and the church of the first-born in heaven. Hear my prayer, Father most merciful, through him who died that I might live ; and to thy great name be glory and praise forever. Amen.

FOR A COMMUNICANT.—EVENING.

After the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

O thou who art Love, and dwellest in love ; Father Almighty ; thou hast caused thy goodness to pass before me this day. Follow with thy blessing what I have been permitted and enabled to perform in obedience to the injunction of thy Son. I would carry into life and through life the spirit of this Sabbath. If my affections have gone forth towards thee in warm devotion, and if the sufferings and death of my Redeemer have produced proper reflections and awakened proper purposes, to thee be the praise. I thank thee for the health which has enabled me to tread thy courts this day, and to sit down with my brethren

at the table of the Lord, remembering my absent Saviour as he desired. I have received the cup of blessing, given me by thy hand of mercy. I have repeated my vows, acknowledging thee to be my God, and Jesus to be my Saviour. Let it please thee to accept this renewed consecration of myself to thy service. I pray that my spiritual privileges may be my joy and rejoicing in this house of my pilgrimage. May they be health and recovery under all weaknesses and infirmities; safety and defence against all the attacks of my spiritual enemies; vigor and strength to all my good purposes and resolutions; comfort and support under all the afflictions and calamities of life; assistance and direction under all difficulties and doubts; courage and constancy under all dangers and persecutions, in times of sickness, and in the hour of death. As I have named the name of Christ, may I hold fast a good conscience, and set my affections on things above. Help me to follow my Saviour wheresoever he would lead me; to abide in him as the true vine, and to stand fast in the liberty wherewith he makes his people free. May his love for me, which was stronger than death, constrain me to love him in return; and may I never forget his new command, that Christians should love one another as he loved us all. O make me to be his true disciple; triumphing in this, that my Lord, who was once dead, lives and reigns forever and

has gone to prepare mansions for those who love him.

Once more, O thou Parent of all, I implore thy blessing upon all christian churches. May their pastors be holy and faithful ; and may their members walk in love. Quicken and renew those who rest in the forms of religion without experiencing its power. May professed believers be careful to maintain good works, and win souls to Christ. Pity and comfort those who are denied the privileges I enjoy. Bring into the way of truth all such as have erred and are deceived. May faith and peace, devotion and charity gladden the whole earth. Let thy grace be multiplied upon the religious society of which I am a member, and upon the pastor of the flock. Let all with whom I am connected and who are dear to me, be enrolled in the book of life.

Creator and Preserver, I ask thy watchful care over me this night ; and may the morning find me in health for my various duties. While I rejoice in the peculiar ordinances of the gospel, may I remember it is God who has bidden me to the feast of life. I would come where thou hast called. Grant me thy help. I desire to array my soul in the wedding garments of innocence and love. I would sit down at the table thou hast spread for me in the wilderness of this world ; I would eat of that bread which came down from heaven, and drink of the water of life freely ; and

by these spiritual mercies may I be strengthened and prepared for partaking of the marriage-supper of the Lamb in thy house above. Holy Father, receive and bless and sanctify me through Jesus Christ my Saviour and Advocate. Amen.

AT CHURCH, BEFORE THE SERVICES BEGIN.

O thou, whom we have assembled to worship ; Infinite God ; may I remember that this is none other than the house of God, and that this is the gate of heaven. Assist me, O Lord, and accept my services. May I worship thee in spirit and in truth. Do thou aid him who is to lead in our devotions ; and dispose my heart to seriousness, attention, and reverence. May the words of his mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in thy sight ; and grant that I may improve this opportunity to the honor of thy holy name, and the benefit of my soul, through Jesus Christ my Saviour. Amen.

AT CHURCH, AFTER THE SERVICES ARE ENDED.

Blessed be thy name, O Lord, for this opportunity of attending thee in thy house and service. Grant that I, and all who profess thy name, may be doers of thy word and not hearers only. Par-

don my wanderings and imperfections, and accept my services, through the only Mediator and Advocate, Jesus Christ. Amen.

FOR A PERSON WHEN ABSENT FROM PUBLIC WORSHIP.

Eternal God, every where present and always active, I am denied the privilege of meeting with my fellow Christians this day in thy house of worship; yet I bless thee for the assurance, that the prayer, which I should have offered in the crowded assembly, will be acceptable when breathed to thee in this my retirement. O thou who seest in secret, I join in heart and spirit with thy worshipping children, to thank thee for the means of grace and the hopes of glory. I join with thy church in all their benevolent intercessions; and may all the sorrows, privations and pains with which in thy wisdom thou mayest afflict us, be received with fortitude, endured with patience, and improved to our eternal peace.

Supply to me, O God, the want of the public means of grace, by the teachings of thy word and the demonstration of thy spirit. May I recall what I have formerly heard and read, and thus enliven and preserve the christian graces within me. Let me never forget that thou lookest at the heart and weighest the motive. Thou regardest not the prostration of my body or the

fervor of my prayers, unless they make me more pure, holy, and resigned. I desire to be the same when no eye sees me, as I am in the public walks of life. May I enter my closet as well as the sanctuary, and attend to my principles as well as to my actions. O never let me confine religion to times or places, to high excitement or occasional impulse, but may I be in thy fear all the day long. Let me ever distinguish between the forms of godliness and the power thereof. Let it be my study at home and abroad, in thy house and in my own, to keep a conscience void of offence towards thee and towards man. May I more and more rejoice in Jesus Christ as the Captain of my salvation; open my heart to all his discoveries and commands; make his law the rule of my faith and practice; aim continually at an increasing resemblance of his divine virtues, and rely with unshaken confidence on the precious promises which he has sealed with his blood. May I read thy word in my retirement, and imbue my soul with the piety and charity which pervade it. Fountain of spiritual life, my desire is before thee; may my absence from thy house be sanctified to my soul, and may I so use the means afforded me in private, that I shall be fitted to join that great assembly of the just made perfect, who serve thee without interruption in thy heavenly temple. Amen.

FOR A PERSON WHO WISHES TO IMPROVE HIS CHARACTER.

O thou to whom all hearts are open, all desires are known, who seest the wants I cannot feel and the thoughts I cannot utter; eternal Source of light and truth, I come to thee in the name of my glorified Redeemer, to ask for thy paternal blessing on my new resolutions. I come in my sin to seek godly sorrow and forgiveness, in my ignorance to ask for a guiding hand, in my weakness to find thy heavenly strength, and in my poverty to gain the unsearchable riches of Christ. I would remember what I am, and what I ought to be. Thou hast made me intelligent, free and immortal. Thou hast created me in the image of thine own eternity, and given me an interest in all that is future. Thou hast connected my life with thine forever. I am convinced that thou hast made me capable of imitating thee in thy moral attributes, and of imbibing the spirit of Jesus. I am convinced that these acquisitions will develope my whole spiritual nature, and best prepare me for the extended knowledge, the perpetual improvement and increasing happiness of thy heavenly kingdom. I would ask now for a livelier piety towards thee, my Maker. The soul that came from thee I would have ascend to thee often in the services of devotion. In thy paternal regards towards me, I believe that there is no

uncertainty or change; in my service of thee may there be no wavering. I desire to be pure as thou art pure, holy as thou art holy, and perfect as thou art perfect. God of strength, aid me in my spiritual endeavors. O give me that grace which sanctifies the heart, and forms the soul to thine image. Let thine eye be more to me than the inspection of all my fellow creatures, and thy approbation dearer to me than the applause of all worlds. I make an unreserved surrender of myself to thee. Let all that I am, and all that I have be thine now and thine forever.

I desire to know more of Jesus my Saviour. I would have the virtues, which he possessed, live in my heart and shine in my life. In moral purity I would be on earth what he was, that I may be in heaven what he is. I would feel that his commands can be obeyed, and that the standard of his excellence can be attained. May the christian graces, which I shall need above, dwell richly in me while below. I desire to feel the force of all goodness, human, social and divine. I pray that my mind may be more and more enlightened by the great principles of christian truth, and my heart warmed by the growing flames of vital piety. Forbid that I should separate, in my regards, what Christ has joined together in the gospel; but recollect, that if I have faith it must be that faith which is united with charity, which works by love and purifies the

heart. While I know what constitutes the christian character, may I neglect nothing which is needful to complete it. O let me not be content with the bare preservation of innocence, but may I grow in grace, advance in piety and benevolence, and go on unto perfection. Fountain of spiritual life, fill my soul with so deep a sense of the excellence of heavenly things, that I may, by a holy discipline, a calm resolution and a free spirit, have my conversation in heaven and my joy in heavenly employments. I would think nothing arduous to which I am called by thee; and do thou give me a more distinct view of duty, and a more steadfast resolution to perform it. While I am watchful against enemies without, may I not forget those within; and do thou assist me in exercising a perfect government over my thoughts, feelings and passions. Let me remember it is not enough that religion should bridle my tongue and regulate my outward deportment, but that it must rule in my heart, purify the fountains of desire, and turn the whole soul to thee.

Father most merciful, my heart's desire and prayer to thee is, that the love of thee and the love of man may become the ruling principles of my life; and for the future let my time be more wisely improved, my talents more religiously directed, the gospel more honored, and thee more glorified. And having pressed forward towards the mark with increasing zeal, may I hereafter

know as I am known, and see as I am seen, in that blessed presence where is fulness of joy forevermore. Amen.

FOR A PERSON WHO SEEKS A TRUE FAITH.

God of truth, who showest the right path to those who seek it, I come in the name of him who is the way, the truth and the life, to ask thy gracious aid in my endeavors to know the truth as it is in Jesus, the faith once delivered to the saints. I desire to resign myself to the guidance of thy spirit, and the teachings of thy word. With just solicitude I would inquire for the right way. Cleaving to thee and holding fast that which is good, I beseech thee to preserve me from whatever may lead me into error. Believing the soul to be immortal, like the truth which it loves, I desire to gather into mine all that can promote its endless improvement. I desire to know thee and Jesus Christ; to know my fellow men and myself; and to understand the application of christian principle to human happiness. God of power and of love, do thou help me in my endeavors. I rejoice in the divinity that beams from thy works, and in the inspiration which breathes from thy word. Regarding the soul as an harmonious part of thy vast creation, I would make it all that it can become in know-

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ledge, virtue, and felicity. Do thou direct my examination of the sacred Scriptures, so that I may find the pearl of great price. Had I the tongue of an angel I could not give thee sufficient thanks for the gospel of Jesus Christ, and the redemption there is in him. Help me to know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings. May I study his word with the spirit in which it was written. O give me clearness of reason, sobriety of judgment, honesty of mind, and perseverance in pursuit. Rescue me, I fervently pray thee, from that prejudice which prevents a just discernment; from that fear of man which brings a snare; from that self-interest which obstructs an impartial examination; from that ignorance which clouds the understanding, and from those corrupt affections which darken and seduce the soul. Regulate every disordered feeling which would blind me to thy truth, or cast down my heart from its integrity. Let me not mistake the reasonings of prejudice for the teachings of thy gospel, nor the fervors of passion for the renewing of thy spirit. Keep me unspotted from the world; may its smiles never allure, its frowns terrify, its vices defile; or its errors delude me. Father of lights, I resign myself wholly to thee, assured that thou wilt not suffer those, who sincerely desire to know the truth, finally to miss of it. If, in any thing, which concerns thy worship, or the honor that is

due to thy Son, or the immortal happiness of my soul, I am in error, I earnestly pray to be convinced of it, and to be led into all truth.

As my blessed Saviour has promised, that all who do his will shall know his doctrine, grant, O God, that I may never willingly offend thee in any thing, or neglect to do what is thy wish and my duty. Whatever truth shall be disclosed to me, may I receive it in faith, obey it in love and profess it with joy.

Give me true and abiding charity for those who have ignorantly erred from the right way. Though I could speak with the lips of angels, and have not charity, I am nothing. May I show them a christian meekness; and by the piety of my heart and the usefulness of my life, may I be instrumental of winning them to the truth.

Through him, who came to show us the Father, I offer these my requests, nothing doubting; and through him to thee, the everlasting Source of life and salvation, be glory and praise forever. Amen.

FOR A PERSON WHO IS PERSECUTED FOR HIS RELIGIOUS
OPINIONS.

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the author of peace and the lover of concord; in my sorrow and anxiety I repair to thee who art the friend of the friendless, the stay of the weak, and

the refuge of the forsaken. I thank thee for the blessed gospel, and for its records now in my possession. Having searched the sacred Scriptures with an honest mind, I have of myself judged what is right, and have joyfully and thankfully embraced the truth as I see it to be in Jesus. Having thus yielded to the strength of evidence and the deductions of reason, I have obtained a faith in thee and a faith in Christ on which those around me look with alarm. I am not only deprived of the sympathy of others, but experience their disapprobation and reproaches. I am called to suffer shame for the name of my Redeemer, and I feel that I am thus persecuted for righteousness' sake. Amid these afflictions I come to thee imploring thy strength. Sustained and comforted as I am by thy word and truth, may no increase of suffering draw from me an inconsiderate prayer, or extinguish the patience and charity which I learn from Christ. I would overcome evil with good. I would bless those who curse me, and pray for those who despitefully use me and persecute me. O God, give me the spirit of him, who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; and like him may I from the heart pray that thou wouldst forgive those who refuse me justice. O lay not these sins to their charge; but give them better principles and kinder feelings.

Great and blessed God, most deeply do I lament that the faith once delivered to the saints is

so frequently weakened by vain traditions, darkened by superstitious fears, and corrupted by human inventions. Suffer not men, I beseech thee, any more to mingle darkness with the pure light of heavenly truth. Put an end to ambition and selfishness in the church. Let the human soul no longer be abused. Break the power of spiritual tyranny, dissipate the clouds of ignorance, and let the true light visit mankind. May free inquiry prevail so as to destroy all usurpation over the consciences of men. May Christians every where contend earnestly for their religious rights, and make the Bible alone their rule of faith and practice. Above all, I pray that the progress of thy truth may not be hindered by the wicked lives of those who profess it.

O Father, with diligence to search and attention to consider and grace to understand thy holy gospel, give me carefulness to reduce its rules to practice, so that my whole life may be one continued recommendation of the true faith. If I am wandering from the strait path, I fervently pray thee to bring me back. Fountain of wisdom, enlighten me where I err, sustain me where I am right, and let the spirit of truth lead me into all truth. I ask for the spirit of Jesus. As his gospel has come down to me, confirmed by the blood of martyrs and the voice of ages, may I be willing to suffer for it, and, if need be, to die for it. Give me an apostle's fervor, and a martyr's

courage. May I stand firm against every assault, and let nothing infringe on the innocence, integrity or peace of my conscience. Let no offers of worldly reward, and no threats of personal pain ever induce me to betray my Saviour. I would be determined in purpose and vigorous in action, looking to him who is the Lord and Head of Christians. O give me that zeal which comes from knowledge and is ruled by discretion. May I be prepared for the further light which is to break forth from thy holy word. It is my heart's desire and prayer, that I may more and more believe thy gospel, trust in thy promises, wait for thy mercy, and do thy will. Let me fear nothing so much as offending thee, and desire nothing so much as thy favor. As I have named the name of Christ, may I patiently bear his cross; and having been faithful unto death, do thou at last bring my soul to that world where no sin shall blight its purity and no persecutions disturb its rest. There may the pious and holy of every sect, forgetting their differences on earth, unite with the harmonious church of heaven, in ascribing glory and honor, dominion and power to him, who sitteth on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever. Amen.

FOR A PERSON WHO HAS NEGLECTED RELIGION.

Just and holy God, who requirest holiness in thy children, and who hast made holiness to be the preparation for heaven, I should come before thee with shame and blushing, for I have neglected the one thing needful. I have lived in thy world and fed on thy bounty, and yet have overlooked thee, the Giver of all good. I find a law in me, that when I would do good, evil is present with me. I have cast off the fear of thee and have restrained prayer; I have profaned thy name, and despised thy reproofs. I have refused to honor thy Son, and have cherished an evil heart of unbelief. I have not known or wished to know the purity, holiness, and worth of his character. In my intercourse with my fellow men, I have had a single regard to my worldly gain without a due respect for thy law. I have been a partaker of other men's sins, and have emboldened them by my example. I have indulged passions which war against the soul. I think of my besetting sin with shame and confusion. I have sinned, Father, against heaven and in thy sight, and I tremble at the doom of the slothful servant. Lord of life, cut me not off from the land of the living till I am fit for death and judgment. Spare me to bring forth fruits meet for repentance. Though I have loitered so long in thy vineyard,

and trifled so much with thy work, I would repair to the mercy which is promised to the repenting. I have been intent on this world as if it could never end, and forgetful of the next as if it could never begin. I desire to be aroused from this delusion, and henceforth to be as zealous for thee as I have been eager for the world. When I think how much depends on this short life, which will so soon be gone and can never return, I am filled with deep anxiety to redeem time and work out my salvation. O thou who sparest when we deserve punishment, have compassion on me, and make the remembrance of my sins so burdensome that I shall fly to thee with a troubled spirit and a contrite heart. Visit, comfort, and relieve me. I throw myself on thy infinite grace. I would become pure in heart. O help me in my struggles with sin; and may I come before thee in future with a heart free from wild enthusiasm and cold formality, from credulous superstition and deadening unbelief. May I frequently place before myself the awful moment, when all I here cling to shall elude my grasp; when every earthly good shall be to me as if it had never been, except in the remembrance of the use I have made of it; when my eyes shall close upon a world of sense and open upon a world of spirits; when there shall be no relief, no refuge, except in thy everlasting mercy. O Lord, prepare me for that hour. Let thy com-

passion pardon what I have been, thy grace reform what I am, and thy wisdom direct what I shall be. In the name of him, who died for the ungodly, I offer my prayer, beseeching thee to grant an answer of peace and reconciliation. Amen.

INTERCESSION FOR A RELATIVE WHO IS VICIOUS.

Righteous God, omniscient and almighty, in the name of him, who has brought in everlasting redemption for sinners, I now approach thy throne of mercy to intercede for my relative whose sins are bringing swift ruin upon *himself* and the deepest affliction to *his* family and friends. Thou hast required from *him* no services but those which *he* could perform; and forbidden no indulgence but such as would bring wretchedness and sorrow; yet, *he* has listened to the voice of the charmer and been deaf to the warnings of conscience. *He* has deviated from the law of innocence and equity, of temperance and kindness. *He* has broken the harmony of *his* nature; and seems not weary of the burden of *his* transgressions, or ashamed of their defilement, or afraid of their consequences. *He* lives without thee, without Christ and without hope in the world. For these moral crimes I mourn and weep. When I contemplate *his* besetting sin, and see in it the

destruction of all I once valued and loved, my heart is overwhelmed with grief, and my soul is made desolate within me. O God, I fly to thee for guidance and support. In thee is my hope. With strong crying and tears I intercede for *him*, beseeching thee not to cast *him* off forever. O thou who canst raise the dead, raise *him* from this death of sin to a life of righteousness. Make thyself known to *him* in *his* moral restoration. When I think how much *he* needs and how little *he* deserves, I am filled with anxiety ; but with thee there is plenteous redemption : O save *him* that *he* perish not. Thou hast devised means by which they who are banished may not finally be expelled from thee : God of compassion, here put forth thy saving hand. Take thy *servant* into thy powerful and fatherly protection. Break the fatal enchantment which binds *his* soul to guilty indulgence. Teach *him* the lesson *he* appears so unwilling to learn. Show *him* the precipice to which *his* sin leads *him* ; and enable *him* to see *himself* as others see *him*. I fervently pray thee, to spare *him*. Deprive *him* not of talents and opportunities which *he* has wanted the wisdom to use. Dispel the mists of ignorance and error ; quicken *his* dulness in thy service, and break the fetters of sin. Enable *him* to shun every person and place that would lead *him* into vice. O that *he* might become worthy of thy pardoning mercy and redeeming love. May *his* relatives and

friends leave nothing undone which would awaken *his* mind to reflection and *his* heart to piety. O my Father, grant that I may, before I die, see *him* turned from the error of *his* ways to thee *his* God. May I see *him* possessing a taste for devotion, with *his* affections refined and spiritualized, with *his* soul sanctified and saved. O let that happiness be mine, to see *him* restored to the welcome affection of *his* friends, to the joys and duties of a virtuous life. Hearken to the voice of my cry, my Father and my God, and send me the answer of peace through the Saviour of sinners, Jesus Christ the righteous. Amen.

FOR A CRIMINAL IN PRISON.

Just and merciful God, who bringest to light the hidden things of darkness, and visitest sin with shame and punishment; thou disappointest the hopes of the wicked, and makest them feel in this world the guilt of transgression, that thou mayest deter others from the evil of their ways, and save their souls in judgment. In the solitude of my prison and out of the depths of misery, I cry unto thee, O Lord my God; and do thou condescend to hear me through him who came to seek and save those who are lost. Shame, remorse and suffering are now my deserved portion. I am here because I cannot be trusted with

liberty. I have by my conduct proclaimed my hostility to the peace and virtue of mankind. While the pure and just are enjoying the sweets of freedom, I am here shut out from all the joys and improvements of home. I have hardened my heart, and repeated the works of darkness, and would not be reformed. Neglecting to use my talents aright and to improve my opportunities, I am brought into this wretched condition. My crimes stand before me in their number and depth. Miserable man that I am ! who shall deliver me from the body of this death ? God of compassion, in the midst of judgment thou rememberest mercy ; I fly to thee with a free spirit, beseeching thee to exercise thy willing clemency. Thou desirest not the death of sinners, but rather that they should return to thee and live ; and hast promised that whosoever believeth on thy Son shall not perish but have everlasting life : O let me be among those whose unrighteousness is forgiven and whose sin is covered. Let my present woful situation be turned into the happy means of converting my soul and perfecting my repentance. Thou hast power to forgive the sins which man must not overlook : I earnestly pray that this prison may be a school of virtue for me. May every inward and outward pain become a solemn monitor to my soul ; and may every needful restraint here, be the means of producing in me the freedom of holiness. O let every trial

and every deprivation promote my final prosperity. As I see and feel the evil of sin in the degradation and sorrow it has brought upon me, I pray that it may effectually teach me the great value of truth, justice and religion ; and show me how a good name is better than all riches. Experiencing the consequences of transgression, let my soul be moved to effectual reformation. O may the morally dead be alive again ; and the morally lost be found. God be merciful to me a sinner. Let the deep wounds which guilt has made be entirely healed. There is time for reconciliation. May I so feel the criminality of the dispositions I have indulged and the course I have pursued, that I shall wholly renounce them ; and when I leave this prison may I go forth with a firm resolve to repair, by a life of exemplary justice, usefulness and piety, the evils I have done.

— If I am never to leave this place of confinement to enjoy the outward freedom of earth, O God, grant that I may enjoy by holiness and devotion the inward freedom of a citizen of heaven.

I pray for my fellow-prisoners ; beseeching thee to disappoint the devises of those who would be the terror and scourge of human society. Look in mercy on those who are struggling with their sins ; and enable them to come off conquerors through Jesus Christ. May the reflecting and penitent in this prison set an example of order and self-reflection to the rest, and at last bring

them to repentance. I offer my prayer in his name, who showed compassion to the malefactor on the cross, and to thee be praise forever. Amen.

BIRTH DAY.

To thee, my Creator and Preserver, I would this day raise a new memorial; for by thy sparing favor I am permitted to see the beginning of another year. On this solemn and interesting anniversary I fly to thee in prayer, to thank thee for what I have received, and to ask thy direction and blessing through the remaining part of life. Another year, which began under thy guidance, has been filled with thy mercies, and is now closed under thy care. I thank thee for this continuance of my being; I thank thee for the light of reason and conscience, for the friendly and benevolent affections, and for all the useful and improvable powers of my mind. I thank thee for health, peace and safety, for personal, family and public blessings, for every innocent and social enjoyment, and for all the happiness of the past year. Though I have neglected some of its opportunities and perverted some of its blessings; though I have made earnest exertions after imaginary good, and foolishly abandoned my truest interests, yet, I humbly hope that the whole of

this year has not been lost. Of thy great clemency I pray that its many failures may be forgiven, and its imperfect services accepted. I have seen thee in the bounties which have cheered and the disappointments which have saddened me, and I believe it has been thy purpose to conduct me, through the path of penitence, of willing obedience and meek submission, to unmixed and everlasting good. While I mourn over my sins and desire to forsake them, I fervently pray that in the future my great aim may be to do thy will. In thee may all my wishes begin, my labors proceed, and my hopes centre. O my Father, give me an immediate and steadfast regard to duty. Grant me wisdom to plan and power to execute. By diligence, economy and temperance may I preserve health, and secure the comforts of life; and by integrity, meekness and devotion may I secure thy favor which is better than life. Knowing that all I yet hope to accomplish must be done in the uncertain future, let not the coming year prove the occasion of new waste, or more aggravated ruin; but do thou help me to serve thee in the state to which thou hast called me, and make my remaining life one continued act of cheerful obedience.

My guardian God, from infancy I have been cast upon thee. As I now enter another year, not knowing the things that will befall me there, I would come to thee, who seest the end from the

beginning, and would submit my ways to thy guidance and my interests to thy disposal. On the darkness of my path shed thou a beam from heaven. If in this year I am to die, O let my soul be in readiness for the summons, by having its peace made with thee, and its hope in a Redeemer sure and steadfast. If I am to live, be thou my strength. Thou knowest my wants and art able to supply them; thou perceivest my dangers and art willing to defend me; I pray thee to compassionate my weakness, to guard me in peril, to direct me in doubt, and to save me from error. In every exposure let thy shield be over me; and from every evil around or within me do thou graciously deliver me. And whether I enjoy, or suffer, or live, or die, may it be found that the lessons and duties and events of time have fitted me for the knowledge and improvements and happiness of eternity.

Now unto God, the great Preserver, the beginning and the end, the first and the last, the Lord of life and death, be thanksgiving and praise forever. Amen.



FOR AN AGED PERSON.

Author and Supporter of life, who art the same from everlasting to everlasting; in whose duration there is no succession, one day being with

thee as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day: I come to thee, the Rock of ages, the Refuge of every generation, desiring to thank thee for the many favors I have received at thy hand. Thou hast maintained my frail existence through many years, and crowned its successive periods with thy mercy. Even my sorrows and trials have showed a Father's discipline for my good. Thou hast supplied my wants of body and soul, shielded me from dangers, sustained me in distress, and carried me thus far, a wonder to many. How much do I owe thee for the light, and consolation and hopes of the gospel! Praised be thy name that I have no dread of ceasing to ~~exist~~; because Christ has removed the burden of our fears, and opened the door of immortal life. I feel myself connected with thee by a tie which can never be broken, and claim an interest in every moment of the everlasting future. To thee, who hast continued my life thus far, I look for its continuance in another world.

Merciful God, I am filled with sorrow at the recollection of neglected duty. Record not against me the indiscretions of my youth, and show thy compassion to my present sins. I would have a godly sorrow for whatever I have thought or said or done amiss in the long course of my pilgrimage. The time which I have lost do thou help me to redeem, and the good works I have begun, do thou assist me to complete If

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I have injured any, enable me to discover it, that I may make due reparation, and be at peace with all men before I go hence. Preserve me from every sin to which I may be exposed. O save me from a selfish, censorious, impatient, and irritable temper. Make me thankful to those who contribute to my comfort; and may I rejoice in the happiness of all around me, and with a friendly spirit instruct and admonish the rising generation. Especially may I render the religion of Jesus attractive and venerable by showing an example of cheerful piety and devout resignation. Thus may I bring forth fruit in my old age.

Lord of life, my strength now is oftentimes labor and sorrow, and I shall soon go down to the grave. These admonitions of increasing age and approaching death are wisely attached to my condition, and I would duly heed the needful warnings. I desire to submit the events of my being to thy management without one murmuring word or one discontented thought. This is my first and earnest prayer, that as the outward man fails the inward man may be renewed day by day. Let my hoary head be found in the way of righteousness. Though my sight is dim to the world, let the eyes of my mind be opened to see thy salvation; though my ears are dull of hearing, let them hear the glad tidings of the gospel; though I cannot taste as formerly what I eat and what I drink, let me taste the goodness of the

Lord, and hunger and thirst after righteousness ; though my limbs are weak and my strength is but feebleness, yet do thou make me strong in the Lord, to walk in thy ways that my feet may lay hold on eternal life. O Father, amid the infirmities of age may thy comforts delight my soul ; and finishing my course with joy, let my last days be my best days. I rest on thee. Cast me not off in my old age, forsake me not when my strength fails ; but be thou the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. While I live I will praise thee, and sing praises to thy name while I have my being ; and looking forward with joyful hope to eternal life, which is thy gift, may I find a happy admittance to that world where existence is not measured by years, or improvement retarded by age. Amen.

FOR A PERSON IN MIDDLE LIFE.

Father of lights, and Source of being, I bless thee for conscious existence, for the rank allotted me among the works of thine hands, for my intellectual and moral powers, for all my capacities of enjoyment, and for that variety of objects around me adapted to their nature and improvement. I bless thee, the Father of knowledge, for

the assistance in the pursuit of science and virtue, which thou hast afforded me through the channel of friends, teachers, books, or conversation. Most of all, I bless thee for the light, consolation, and hope, which thou hast put it into my power to obtain by the careful study of the holy Scriptures, by serious meditation on their important doctrines, and by an impartial and diligent use of them in the regulation of my faith, temper and practice. O may I show forth my gratitude for these many favors, by devoting my powers to thy service.

Gracious God, thou hast brought me to this period of life, when my strength is upon me, and when I am able to make the greatest exertions. Do thou teach me the duties which this season requires. Forbid, great God, that I should misapply or trifle with any portion of that precious time, for the use of which I am accountable at thy bar. May I regard my time and all my opportunities as talents which thou hast lent me. May I remember that the obligation and the ability to do good are of equal extent; and do thou graciously dispose me to fulfil this measure of my duty.

God of wisdom, enlighten my understanding to discern the great objects of existence. O let me never weakly imagine, that thou hast placed me so high in the scale of being only to enjoy the fleeting gratifications of the body. May I seek

a happiness the most exalted and durable, a happiness flowing from obedient appetites, well regulated affections, increasing knowledge, the exercise of piety and benevolence, and the well-grounded hope of thy approbation and favor. While my thoughts are engaged about the things of earth, may I reserve my affections for what is pure, ennobling, and heavenly.

In my intercourse with mankind, may I have wisdom to know what is right, and steadfast resolution to perform it. Let no passion obscure my understanding, no prejudice warp my judgment, no affectation of novelty seduce me from the truth, no self-interest extinguish my charity, and no temptations subdue my virtue. O save me from the guilt of the hypocrite. May I cherish a true christian simplicity of character, and be in reality before thee what I appear before men; and never may I profess religion until I am religious. Let me be serious without gloom and cheerful without levity. Let a blameless consistency of life give weight to my endeavors. Enable me to pursue virtuous ends with unwearied zeal, with unaffected humility and enlightened benevolence. O God, give me the strictest regard to integrity and truth, perfect chastity of thought and desire, and a temperance which no appetite can overcome. Keep me from idle amusements and vicious company. Arm my soul against besetting sins, and whenever I act

may I do good. Give me a thoughtful and timely regard to those who depend on me for aid, support or counsel. May I consider this world as the introductory school of discipline for my affections, and its joys and sorrows as intended to qualify me for higher enjoyments and never-ending improvement in heaven.

Holy Father, I ask thy mercy for my numerous sins ; and I fervently pray, that in future I may act for immortality. I give up myself to thee. Go with me through this world of danger ; and at the close of life may I have the testimony of a good conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not by fleshly wisdom, but by thy grace, I have had my conversation in the world. Through my Saviour and Advocate I offer my prayer, ascribing to thee glory forever. Amen.

FOR A PERSON IN ACTIVE BUSINESS.

Righteous and merciful art thou, O Lord, in the ordination, that by the sweat of our brow we should eat bread. Thou hast created all beings, that they might enjoy their existence ; and thy wisdom is manifest in every provision for their welfare. Thou lookest upon the earth, and fillest it with blessings for them.

Thou art calling all to activity and labor, that they may be useful to each other, and be pre-

served from the evils of idleness and vice. It was the Saviour's meat and drink to do thy will, and to finish his appointed work. Merciful God, let me not esteem it a burden that I am called to activity and solicitude. I ask thy divine grace to give me faithfulness and alacrity in the duties of my employment. May I never plan what I cannot ask thee to aid, and never execute what I cannot ask thee to bless. As I am fixed in business, not for my own private interest alone, but for the good of society, O implant and increase within me a principle of truth and good-will towards all men, that I may always abhor the thought of enriching myself by the gains of secret fraud or base ambition. Keep in me a conscientious regard to that great principle of doing to others as I would that they should do to me. May I never forget that the wages of unrighteousness bring down thy quick displeasure, and that the prosperity of the wicked shall destroy them.

Amidst undue eagerness for wealth, do thou sound in my ears that awakening question, What is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Save me from the snares of covetousness, and may I remember that the day is approaching in which earthly riches cannot profit me. O grant, that amidst all my pursuits I may preserve a supreme regard to thee, and secure those heavenly treasures which can never be taken away. Amid the conflict of rival interests,

and the tumult of worldly ambition, may the whisperings of conscience be audible, and the still small voice of religion be regarded. To this end, O God, I ask the guidance of thy friendly spirit; and while my thoughts are steadily fixed on earthly objects, may I be careful to reserve my affections for what is heavenly and eternal. Knowing the tendency of the world to extinguish a sense of spiritual blessings, may I maintain such constant suspicion of these earth-born passions, as shall keep me from every inordinate pursuit of temporal good. May the law of truth be written on my heart, so that iniquity shall never be found in my mouth.

If my means increase, grant me a liberal hand to the poor and needy, and never let health, affluence or power banish from my mind the gentle spirit of humanity; but may I use what thou impartest, with temperance, gratitude and charity. May I do much to promote good learning and pure religion; and by benefiting society may I prove that thou hast not blessed me in vain.

Giver of every good, I ask thy smiles upon my plans and labors. May I be prospered in my lawful undertakings; and by fidelity and prudence, by industry and benevolence, may I do honor to the religion I profess, and at last receive those higher rewards which earth cannot bestow. In the name of him who died to redeem us from the power of this evil world, I offer this my prayer,

ascribing to thee, the Disposer of my condition, praise everlasting. Amen.

WHEN IMPORTANT BUSINESS IS UNDER CONSIDERATION.

I look up to thee, God of knowledge and of strength, who givest the skill to plan and the power to execute, imploring thy blessing and help in the important business now before me. I am about to take a step in life full of interest to myself and others; do thou, who seest the end from the beginning, bring the whole to such an issue as shall most conduce to my christian improvement, to thy glory and the happiness of others. Counsel me with thy wisdom and make my heart submissive to the guidance of thy providence. Without thy light and help I know nothing and can do nothing; O preserve me from false judgments concerning the ends of living and the road to happiness. In all my ways I would acknowledge thee, and do thou direct my paths. And having wisely chosen, may I rightly manage and successfully accomplish the work before me. Thy will be done, whatever the event shall bring. O my Father, at every juncture may I preserve a conscience void of offence. Forbid that I should form any plan or engage in any action which shall endanger the property, the comfort, or the virtue of others. May I dread and fly

from every thing which would injure my neighbor; but, acting under the influence of truth, justice and charity, may I show at all times the spirit of Jesus.

Omniscient God, I again refer all to thee. I ask not the gratification of my ignorant desires, but would humbly acquiesce in the allotments of thy wisdom. As nothing comes to us from thee but what we should most desire and pray for, let me ever desire to be in harmony with the all-wise system of thy world, which is that of universal benevolence. Be thou my Guardian and I shall fear no evil; be thou my Benefactor and I shall want no good thing. I ask in faith, nothing doubting, and to thee be homage and submission forever. Amen.

FOR A PERSON IN PROSPERITY.

Indulgent God, the benevolent Disposer of all events, the sole Possessor of heaven and of earth; the world is thine and the fulness thereof. To thy sovereign goodness I am indebted for all the advantages of my present condition. My heart overflows with gratitude for the success and prosperity which are my portion. My table is spread with thy gifts; my cup runneth over. Not unto me, O Lord, but unto thy name be the praise. Thou makest rich; thou liftest up; wealth and

honor come from thee. Better than my fears hast thou been to me, and beyond my hopes hast thou blessed me. What am I that thou shouldst thus visit me with thy favors? All that comes from thee is good, and to be received with thanksgiving.

O God, it is my heart's desire and prayer, that I may honor thee with my substance, advance my spiritual interests, and promote the best good of those around me. May I use my abundance with moderation and enjoy my elevation with innocence. Having freely received may I freely give. I would have my alms, together with my prayers, come up as a memorial before thee. Let me imitate the goodness and beneficence in which I rejoice, and, to my utmost power, be that friend and benefactor to others, which thou art to me. And may I regard thy tokens of love here, as pledges of nobler blessings reserved for me hereafter, if I use the world without abusing it. Fountain of spiritual good, most devoutly would I beseech thee to add to thy temporal gifts the possession of a pious, modest, and sound mind. May purity and virtue heighten all my enjoyments. Preserve me from being elated with pride, or overcome with pleasure. Preserve me from the blindness and infatuation of those who take this world for their portion, and whose prosperity destroys them. O preserve me from that gross sensuality, that levity of disposition, and

that insolence of deportment, which must wound the hearts of others, and contaminate the rising generation. By affability and condescension, temperance and usefulness, by the command of my appetites and by a steady regard to every duty, may I show that thou hast not blessed me in vain. May I never need the threatenings of thy law or the terrors of punishment to keep me from sin, but may thy goodness lead me to repentance, and thy love constrain my obedience. By the golden chain of thy bounties I would be bound to thy throne. Let me see that a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things he possesseth; that he who is not rich towards God, is infinitely poor and destitute; that the only use of earthly wealth is to purchase the true riches, and that a holy zeal for thy service is able to convert the widow's mite into a treasure greater than all the world has. O let me see that thy word is more to be desired than gold; that the kingdom of heaven is indeed the goodly pearl of great price, and that its subjects, though poor, yet make many rich, though having nothing are yet possessed of all things. Great God, let me take care not to lose my own soul, though it were to gain the whole world; and let me ever bear it in mind that there is nothing pleasant, nothing honorable, nothing valuable, but the faithful discharge of my duty, and thy favor, and that these are better than life itself.

O God, remind me of the instability of earthly possessions. Teach me to expect a change in my circumstances; and do thou prepare me for it. In my fulness I would rejoice with trembling. Under all events may I lay up my treasure in heaven: there let my affections be, and thither let my wishes turn. My soul sees nothing great but thee; and in the name of him, who became poor that we might be rich, I would render to thee immortal praise. Amen.

FOR A SEAMAN.

O thou, who stillest the raging of the sea, and the noise of its waves; All-powerful God; I lift up mine eyes to thee, from whom cometh my help. Thou holdest the winds, and at thy command they go forth to fulfil thy word. Thou art God of the sea. Preserve and support me, I beseech thee, during my exposure on the deep. While I am thus dependant on thee, do thou be with me for my safety. Let me not utter thy name but with the greatest reverence; nor forget, that to thee I owe my security, and that thou holdest my soul in life. Fortify me in the seasons of peril; not by blind courage, but by an unbounded confidence in thy care and goodness. Let it please thee to give success to my lawful undertakings, to conduct me safely to my desired haven, and

return me to my family and friends with gratitude for thy sustaining providence. Impress deeply upon my mind the value of those domestic ties which bind me to my relatives and home. May their constant solicitude and anxious prayers for me, produce serious effects on my mind. May I be induced to improve wisely the leisure hours I enjoy, and gain some useful knowledge for my future life. Let me not follow a multitude to do evil, or give my consent to the enticement of sinners. Especially, O God, let me be thoughtful of the Sabbath day to keep it holy ; and as I am here deprived of public worship, may I read thy sacred word with seriousness, and meditate upon it with devout prayer. Enable me, O Father, to have a strong faith in him, who rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. May I ever say to my tempestuous passions,—Peace, be still,—and look forward to the haven of eternal rest. God of power, shelter me under the shadow of thy wings from the storms of worldly care ; and when the darkness gathers, and the winds blow, and the waves swell, be thou my harbor and secure repose.

I commend to thee my fellow seamen, and do thou be with them in peril, and strengthen them when they wake and watch.

O God, preserve me from being tossed to and fro and carried about by every wind of doctrine. Guide me by the spirit of discretion during the

whole of my passage through the duties and dangers of time, and when the waves of death shall compass me about, and the sea shall give up its dead, and every one be called to judgment, then may I find the hope of the gospel an anchor to my soul, sure and steadfast. Amen.

FOR A HIRED PERSON, OR ONE AT SERVICE.

Father of all, with whom there is no respect of persons; thou lookest at the heart, and hast furnished all thy children with the means of pleasing thee and becoming happy. In thy wisdom thou hast permitted varieties of condition and inequalities of property, in order to promote the greatest good of all. I desire to answer the purpose of thy goodness in my present situation. Having entered this family to perform the duties of labor, I desire to be faithful to my trust. As I have promised to give them my devoted service for the compensations they return me, let me consider my time and talents as belonging to them. With honor, justice and fidelity may I yield what they have a right to require. In nothing let me think myself too wise to learn, or too good to amend, but may I be prompt to receive kind counsel and well-inclined to pursue it. I would be diligent, respectful and peaceable, remembering that thou dost require the strictest

honesty, temperance and truth. O God, forbid that I should waste the goods of those with whom I live, or mispend the time I should devote to their service. May I willingly obey my employers in all things according to the flesh, not with eye-service as men pleasers, but in singleness of heart, fearing thee. I pray that I may cherish an affectionate concern for those who wish me good, and account their happiness as my own. May I consult their interests, preserve their property, and defend their good name. Amid the crosses and provocations of life may I be courteous, patient and kind. Enable me to restrain my irritable feelings and to withhold all petulant replies. At such times may I be most careful to govern myself; not answering again, to stir up wrath, but following the things which make for peace.

Most of all, O Father, I pray that my present situation may promote my spiritual good. May I remember that the principles and affections which I cherish now will go along with me into eternity. May I therefore take my Saviour as my model, and become more and more like him in humility and truth, in kindness and devotion. When I remember that he washed his disciples' feet to set them an example, let me also connect religion with all my duties, and thus fill my life with opportunities of the highest value.

I ask thy blessing on those who share the same

condition with me. Never let me withhold good from any to whom it is due, when it is in the power of my hands to do it. May we live together as Christians. O God, may I more and more struggle against every besetting sin. Convince me of the great importance of choosing the chaste, virtuous and exemplary as my associates; and may I avoid every person and place that would lead me into crime. Bless all the sons of labor. Bless the farmer in the field and the mariner on the sea; bless those engaged in trade and those devoted to study.

Again, O Lord, I ask thy smiles on my religious prosperity. Make me perfect in my submission to the allotments of thy providence. Subdue the workings of pride and selfishness; and never let me covet another's possessions, and never take thy name in vain. Clothe me with a meek and humble mind; feed me with the bread of religious wisdom; make me rich in spiritual and incorruptible blessings; and having been faithful unto death, do thou admit me to that world where we shall all serve one Master, whose service is perfect freedom. In the name of him, who came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, I offer this my prayer, ascribing to thee all power and dominion forever. Amen.

FOR THE FAITHFUL DISCHARGE OF SOCIAL AND
DOMESTIC DUTIES.

Father of all the families on earth ; thou hast placed the solitary in families, and dost manifest thyself to them as thou dost not unto the world. Thou hast kindly given us into each other's care, and made our happiness to consist in the imitation of thy benevolence. I come to implore thy blessing on my endeavors to fulfil every domestic and social obligation. Give me wisdom to plan and power to execute whatever will most promote the health, comfort and virtue of those around me.

I pray for self-government ; and may those christian graces, which make families and neighborhoods happy, take full possession of my soul. I ask for the unconditional surrender of my selfishness. May the spirit of self-sacrifice be the ruling principle of my heart ; and may I never feel so contented as when I am a fellow-worker with thee in benefiting thy children. Suppress forever within me every thing like envy, pride, malice and uncharitableness. When the conduct of others is rash, obstinate and irritating, let me have the patience and gentleness of Christ. Give me that charity which beareth all things, suffereth long, and is not easily provoked. Most earnestly do I desire to be free from an angry, peevish

and complaining temper. O God, show me how such a disposition unfits me for the duties I owe to thee, to others and myself. Mercifully grant me a meek and quiet spirit, a forgiving, amiable and generous heart ; so that my deportment may be discreet and obliging, and my whole conduct such as becomes the servant of the lowly and blessed Jesus. To christian godliness may I add the habitual exercise of brotherly kindness, and thus fulfil the royal law which requires us to love our brethren as ourselves. O let me never harbor a thought, indulge a wish, utter a word, pass a judgment or do an action, which charity forbids.

Author of peace and lover of concord, shed heaven's rich blessing on the family in which I live. Let it be a type of the family above. May the softening influences of religion so cement our hearts, that we shall have compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous, and not render railing for railing, but contrariwise, blessing. May parents esteem it their first social duty to educate their children for immortality, teaching them thy truth, when they sit with them in the house and when they walk by the way, when they lie down and when they rise up. May children return the love of their parents in obedient, docile and affectionate hearts. May those who serve do their work with caution, promptitude and cheerfulness. O God, let our dwelling echo the voice of social prayer, of

mutual instruction and christian love ; and thus may we all be fitted for that holy family in heaven, where truth, peace and joy will reign forever. Amen.

FOR A PARENT.

God of power and of love, from thee come our choicest gifts. Thou hast blessed me with children, and inspired my heart with the most ardent affection for them. Having committed them to my care, thou hast commanded me to educate them as Christians, as intelligent and immortal beings. How solemn and important is this charge! From my inmost soul I pray thee to give me thy help that I may train them up in the way in which they should go. Wisely consulting their different abilities, may I so direct their studies and pursuits as to give the utmost expansion to all their mental faculties, and the greatest usefulness to all their labors. But, most of all, I desire to unfold and strengthen their affections, so that the love of thee and of man may become principles within them, over which time and death shall have no destroying power. Enlighten and direct me in the choice of proper means for cultivating pious and holy habits in their opening minds. With unwearied zeal I would sow in their hearts the incorruptible seed of divine truth, that they

may know the Scriptures from their youth, and have aptness to learn the things that be of God. Great Shepherd of Israel, crown with thy blessing my endeavors for their good. I would give them up to thee, and may every one of them be thine. As thou hast made them my children by natural birth, do thou make them thine by spiritual adoption. May they be heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ in the heavenly inheritance.

Righteous Father, while I pray for them I would also pray for myself; beseeching thee to increase my solicitude to set before them the pattern of a godly life. Standing as thy representative to them, may I so take heed to my teachings and example, that I may never stain the whiteness of that innocence, adorned with which they came into being. At no time let me forget, that what I say and do cannot fail to influence the formation of their temper and character. Let me ever view them as schooling for eternity. O do thou direct me to the most rational and salutary expressions of my love to them. Preserve me from the extremes of angry impatience and undue severity, and of excessive indulgence and misguided fondness. Let parental authority be softened down to parental influence, and let every command be suggested by wisdom and tempered with love.

God of all mercy, save me, O save me from

the most grievous calamity which parents can feel, that of beholding their children vicious and miserable. I pray thee to protect and bless those for whom my heart beats with the tenderest anxiety; and never let them be led astray by wicked principle or seductive example. Whatever else thou mayest deny me, grant that I may see them walking in the truth, adorned with innocence and kindness, with humility and devotion. O Father, prevent the influence of any errors in my conduct towards them, and graciously supply my deficiencies. When death shall separate me from them, let me have the consciousness that I have not wilfully neglected my duty; and let me leave behind a character which they can remember with gratitude, and an example which they can follow with safety. And in the great day of inquiry and judgment may we be found together before thy throne, and may I be able to say with joy, 'Here am I, O Lord, and the children which thou hast given me.'

O God, grant an answer of peace to my prayer, through Jesus Christ, thy Son. Amen.



FOR A HUSBAND OR WIFE.

I thank thee, sovereign Disposer, for calling me to the honorable and endearing relations of married life. Fixed in this connexion, I cheer-

fully recognise thy providence, and bless thee for the christian improvement and rational happiness with which my days are crowned. Viewing this condition as connected with all my present comfort and with my immortal hopes, I pray that I may feel most deeply its daily responsibilities and its great moral power. As my marriage was sanctioned by religion, may religion be the ever-present measure of my duty; and I earnestly implore, that I may faithfully perform the engagements of that covenant which I took in thy presence. Enable me to live as a Christian in this relation, and to put away from me whatever would interrupt the joys and improvement it is intended to yield. Give me grace to correct what is wrong in my dispositions, to govern my passions, to be a severe censor of myself, but never to exact or expect too much from the friend and partner of my days. It is my heart's desire and prayer that I may prove a rich and lasting blessing to *him (her)*. May I recollect that *his* highest interest must be mine also; and while I share *his* joys, may I tenderly console *his* sorrows, and become *his* helper in all the changes and chances of the world. Bless *him* with thy heavenly favor. Let me aim continually at the cultivation of *his* understanding and the strengthening of *his* moral taste. Thou hast kindly given us into each other's care; and O let that pure and confiding love be ours, which calms the disquiet-

tudes from abroad, smooths the labors of home, refreshes the languid spirits, alleviates the pain of sickness, and lightens every burden of adversity; while, at the same time, it sweetens every enjoyment of life and gilds every blessing of prosperity. Let hasty and wounding words be put far from me, and the tones of kindness and forbearance be ever on my lips. Thus make life a state, not of temptation and regret, but of innocence and peace; and thus may we be thine in joy and sorrow, in pleasure and pain, in hope and fear, in life and death, in time and eternity. Amen.

FOR AN INSTRUCTOR OF YOUTH.

Great Father of light and God of knowledge, who canst not be taught by any; thine inspiration has given me understanding, and in thy providence I am called to the station of instructor. I come to supplicate thy gracious help in my arduous and responsible trust. Let me have just views of the greatness of the human mind, and ever recollect that thou hast made it to hunger and thirst after knowledge and virtue. Let me be unwearied in the culture of my own mind and heart, that I may every day be more able to lead others on. Assist me in restraining angry and impatient feelings; and may I deem no efforts

too great which shall convey useful knowledge to the opening mind, or protecting principle to the youthful heart. Bless those under my care. O help me wisely to guide and successfully to teach them; and while I am an equal judge to them all, may I be moreover a pattern of what is right and pure before thee. Let me aim to give that positive action to their minds, which shall effectually discipline and strengthen them; while I also teach them the importance of strictly connecting their thoughts, feelings and emotions. O God, enable me fully to estimate those indirect influences, which have such mighty power in forming the susceptible mind; and may I be prompt to turn the force of incidental circumstance to its happiest results.

Above all, holy Father, I pray that I may never educate the intellect at the expense of the heart. I desire to keep in mind, that their moral culture is of the highest moment, and let me so bring out and expand their religious affections, that thine image may shine forth in them and the voice of conscience be regarded as the voice of God. Do thou, O Lord, prosper my efforts; and having trained them in science for the duties of this world, may it be my chief joy to enstamp on them the lines and features of piety, that they may wear in heaven a bright resemblance to the eternal Model of purity and virtue.

I offer my prayer through him, in whom are all

the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, ascribing to thee praise forever. Amen.

FOR A TEACHER OF A SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Eternal Source of light and strength, who givest liberally to those who ask in faith; called in thy providence to impart religious knowledge to the rising generation, I now come to seek from thee that wisdom, guidance and truth, which shall fit me for this delicate and responsible office. Let it be my first desire to feel a deep and growing interest in the souls of children, recollecting that they are made in thy image, and are to live and think and act forever, influenced by the principles and character which they cherish on earth. While I hope every thing from proper religious instruction, may I never be impatient or weary in urging them to the highest spiritual attainments. O may I teach them to see thee in every thing, and every thing in thee. May it be a leading object with me to interest them in the works and teachings of Jesus, and do thou enable me to breathe into their souls the life-giving spirit of his gospel, so that they may be, as their Saviour was, holy, harmless and undefiled. Thus may I prepare them for the duties and joys, the temptations and trials of life; and having been a rich comfort to their living parents, may they continue to shine

in the lustre of genuine goodness when those parents are laid in the dust.

Holy Father, give me a clear understanding of the truths I should inculcate, and help me to adapt them to the minds and conditions of my pupils. Above all, I pray to be a pattern of the excellence I recommend. O let me be what I profess; and do as well as teach. On all occasions may I honor my religion before them by showing its control over my temper and conduct. May I learn from thee how to love them, and teach them by my example how to love thee. Let my deportment be courteous, the tones of my voice persuasive, and all my feelings like his who took little children in his arms and blessed them. God of mercy, give me thy holy Spirit, that I may make their souls to become temples fit for thee; and to thee, through endless ages, shall be given the glory and the praise. Amen.

FOR A VERY YOUNG CHILD.

To be used at any time.

My heavenly Father; thou seest all I do, and hearest all I say. Thou art very kind to me. I thank thee for all thy gifts; they are more than I can remember. O Lord, take care of me, and make me a good and happy child. Amen.

FOR A YOUNG CHILD.

My Father in heaven ; thou art very great and good. Thou didst make the sun and the moon and the stars. Thou makest the clouds to move in the sky, and sendest down the rain from heaven. Thou makest the summer and winter. Thou keepest me alive in the day-time and in the night. Thou hast given me kind parents. I thank thee for all these good things. I wish to love thee more and more every day, and to do what will please thee. I wish to love my parents more, and to do all they tell me. O Lord, look down upon me, and bless me, and make me a good and happy child. Amen.



FOR A CHILD.—MORNING.

My Father and my God ; thou hast taken care of me while I was asleep. I thank thee for the pleasant light of this morning. The darkness goeth away, and the day-light cometh at thy command. I thank thee for all thy goodness to me and to others. I am thy child. I ask thy blessing. Make me wise, good, contented, and useful. Keep me from doing wrong this day. Let me not be impatient, or fretful, or angry ; but may I be a gentle and pleasant child. I am so little I cannot take care of myself. Thou hast given me



kind parents, who provide clothes and food and books for me. O God, bless my father and mother, and may I obey them and make them very happy. Keep me far from wicked children, so that I may not learn their evil ways. Help me to become wiser and better every day, so that I may grow up for heaven; and when I die may I go to thee and Jesus Christ, and to all good people who have died before me. Amen.

FOR A CHILD.—EVENING.

Almighty God, thou delightest to hear the prayer of a little child. Thou hast let me live through another day, and given me what is best for me; and now before I close my eyes in sleep, I wish to thank thee in my heart for the good things I have received. I thank thee for the light of the sun; for the friends who instruct me; for food and raiment; for a home to shelter me, and a bed wherein I may rest my weary body. Help me to remember how I have spent this day; and if I have felt or said or done any thing wrong, may I be so sorry for my faults that I shall do better to-morrow. I wish to be more kind and more industrious every day. Let not my lips speak evil of others, nor my heart wish them any pain, nor my hands do them any mischief; but may I speak the truth always, and do unto others

as I wish them to do to me. May I love my parents and teachers, and listen to their advice. May I love my brothers and sisters, and all mankind; and love thee more than all besides, so that I may be fitted to live with thee and Jesus Christ in heaven.

I think of poor people, and those who are sick and unhappy. Pity them, O Lord, and help me to pity them.

My heavenly Father, I am now going to sleep. Thou seest me by night as well as by day. Keep me safe, and awake me in the morning in health. If I should die in the night, take me to heaven where I may be happy forever. Amen.



FOR A YOUTH.—MORNING.

Almighty God, Maker of heaven and earth, thou hast created me by thy power, preserved me by thy care, and supported me by thy goodness. I am indebted to thee for all that I have; I am dependant on thee for all that I want; and I owe to thee all that I can do. Thou hast watched over me during the defenceless hours of the night. I have slept in safety and awoke in health. Early will I seek and praise and thank thee. I sincerely thank thee for that bountiful providence which has nourished and cheered me. I thank thee for my reason, education and religion; for all the

gifts of nature and grace ; for our Saviour, Christ ; for my redemption, and instruction in the truth ; for thy repeated calls to me ; for all the patience which has waited for me, and the mercy which has spared me ; for the enjoyments of this present life ; and for the promises and hopes of a better life to come.

O God, may these mercies lead me to love thee more and serve thee better ; to love Jesus Christ more and serve him better ; to love my [parents and] friends more and serve them better ; and to be more willing to do to others as I wish others should do to me. O make me sensible of the importance of having right principles and habits on my entrance into active life. May I remember that I am now forming a character, which must affect my condition and happiness in this world and in the next. O may this day, and every day, find me keeping a constant guard over my thoughts, passions and conversation. Let me remember that thine eye is always fixed upon me. May I be temperate, chaste, sincere, faithful and diligent. Help me to embrace the good and avoid the evil which I see in others. Let me choose for my companions those who love and fear thee, and let me wisely shun the snares of wicked company. I desire to imitate the youthful piety of Jesus ; that, like him, I may grow in wisdom as I grow in age. Thus may I repay the care and affection which are manifested for me, and thus

gladden the hearts of my [parents and] friends by the promise of usefulness and virtue.

I am now to go forth to the duties of the day; do thou go with me. Keep me from harm, and bless me through Jesus Christ. Amen.

FOR A YOUTH.—EVENING.

Kind Author of my being, I would adore thee as my Preserver and Benefactor. Another day has gone to return no more. I thank thee for thy care. Thy mercies come to me with every moment of my life. They are more than I can number, and many more than I have deserved. I have sinned against thee; for I have left undone some things which I ought to have done, and have done some things which I ought not to have done. Thou knowest all my faults. As thou hast promised to forgive me if I truly repent, I earnestly pray thee to look in pity on my sins, and teach me so to live that I shall offend no more. I desire to be a Christian in spirit and in deed.

Blessed guide of my youth, do thou preserve me from all corrupt communications; from those youthful lusts that weaken the understanding and ruin the soul. I would be pure in thought and action. Preserve my tongue from uttering falsehood, deceit or impiety, and my hands from com-

mitting injustice. Give me a cautious, sober and devout mind, that I may tremble at the hazard of following evil companions. Dispose me to respect the counsels of age and experience, and may I avoid every thing which I should blush to reveal to my fellow men, and which would fill me with shame and fear when I think of thee. Forbid that I should misapply or trifle with any portion of that precious time, for the use of which I am accountable at thy bar. May I be industrious, so that I shall be useful ; and virtuous, so that I shall be happy.

I thank thee for parents, kindred and friends ; and I rejoice to behold in their solicitude for my welfare, the image of thy love. I ask thy richest blessing on them. May I never forget how much their happiness depends on my good conduct. O help me to become all they desire ; and when the wise and aged shall be called hence, may I be prepared to enter into their labors, and to be useful in society.

God of the night, keep me in safety while I sleep ; and when my life on earth shall end, admit me to the happy, cloudless and eternal day of heaven. Amen.

O my heavenly Father, to whom shall I go but to thee ? Thou feedest the young ravens when

they cry. Thou art the Father of the fatherless, and thy love is more tender than the love of a mother. I desire to put myself under thy heavenly care, since I have lost one [both] of my earthly parents. Save me from danger; from wicked actions and bad company. Give me good friends; and may those with whom I dwell be kind to me, and pray for me, and teach me what I ought to know. Let me not be a burden to any one, but may I be gentle, patient, industrious and honest, and find favor in the eyes of others by my good behavior. O Lord, do thou guide and bless me; and at my death bring me home to the house of my heavenly Father, where I may meet the good persons who have gone to happiness before me. Amen.

FOR A YOUTH WHEN ABSENT AT SCHOOL.

God of wisdom and Guide of my youth; as I have left the house of my earthly parents, and they cannot see me and take care of me, as they have done; I desire more particularly to put myself under the care of thee, my heavenly Father, who art equally present every where. Placed here to receive needful instruction, may I turn to thee in all my wants, and find thee my Helper in every trial.

I thank thee that I live in a land where I can obtain useful knowledge. O help me willingly

and joyfully to improve my present opportunities. When I consider the expense which my parents so cheerfully incur, and the increasing solicitude which they now feel, may it be my deep and abiding concern to answer their expectations. They pray for me, and may their prayers be heard. Lead me duly to consider the importance of this period of my life. O invigorate my pursuit of useful knowledge ; strengthen my memory ; assist my discernment of things that differ ; and so enlarge my understanding, that I may comprehend and retain what is here taught me, and thus become qualified for the future duties of my station. While I have proper times for relaxation, I truly desire that the love of amusement may never steal away the hours which should be devoted to study. I pray that I may be punctual in my attendance at school, diligent in my lessons, exemplary in my deportment, and obliging to my associates. Save me from a rash, obstinate and heedless temper ; and protect me from idle, profane and vicious companions.

But while my reason is cultivated, may every holy affection be cherished in my heart ; and let my soul be enriched with the truths of the gospel, which are able to make me wise to salvation. O grant me that reverence of thee, which is the beginning of wisdom, and let it lead me to regard thine eye more than the inspection of all teachers and parents.

Omnipresent Father, bless my absent kindred and friends. Let them hear such good tidings of my diligence, regularity and improvement, that my return to them shall be a time of unalloyed delight. I make these requests through him, who grew in wisdom as he grew in stature, and ascribe to thee praise everlasting. Amen.

SHORT LITANY FOR CHILDREN.

To be used in a family, or school.

[Let the parent, or eldest child, read the paragraphs marked R; and the children read, or repeat from memory, those marked C.—Let the reader introduce the service by reciting the following texts, or any others he may choose.]

Jesus said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength: This is the first and great commandment.

And the second is like unto it; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

Whatsoever ye would that others should do unto you, do ye even so to them.

God is a spirit; and they who worship him, must worship him in spirit and in truth.

Let us pray.

R. Father Almighty, thou lovest those who love thee; and when they pray from the heart, thou givest them what they need.

C. Thou art looking at us now in mercy, and hearing what we say.

R. Thou art great and wise and powerful.

C. We would meditate on thy greatness and power.

R. The light of the sun was made by thee.

C. And the light of the moon was made by thee.

R. The birds that fly in the air are thine.

C. And the fishes that swim in the deep sea are thine.

R. Thou givest light and color to the beautiful flowers.

C. And thou dost ripen the fruits of the earth.

R. Thou givest food to all creatures.

C. Thou hast fed us every day.

R. To children thou givest parents and friends, teachers and books.

C. O Lord, we thank thee for all thy goodness.

R. We ought to remember thee, and to love thee with all our hearts.

C. We pray that we may do so.

R. Thou hast given us thy dear Son, Jesus Christ, who has told children how to be good and happy, and has promised to take such to heaven when they die.

C. With all our hearts we desire to do what Jesus tells us, that we may live in his happy family forever.

R. He says that we must not think any wicked thoughts; must not say any wicked words; must not do any wicked actions.

c. O Lord, help us to remember these things; and if we do wrong, may we be sorry, and do so no more.

R. Holy and merciful God, we wish thee to love each one of us, to bless us, and keep us from all evil.

c. And we wish thee to love and bless our parents, relations, and teachers.

R. We also desire thee to bless all other children, especially the sick, the ignorant and the poor.

c. O heavenly Father, do thou feed poor children, and clothe them, and give them books, and make them happy as we are.

[Let us slowly repeat the Lord's prayer together.]

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us day by day our daily bread. Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

FOR A SICK PERSON.

Lord of life, who orderest all things in heaven and in earth, I come now to submit myself to the disposal of that wisdom which cannot err, and to

the care of that goodness which is unchangeable and everlasting. I would humbly own and reverence thy hand in my present sickness. Knowing that all the causes which can reach me are under thy control as the ministers of thy pleasure, and that thou dost never willingly afflict or grieve thy children, I would believe that this message of sickness is sent for my spiritual good. My first desire is, that it may be so sanctified to me.

O my Father, the strong love of life prompts me to pray, that this sickness may not be unto death, but for thy glory. Let not the disease touch the vital springs of being, or weaken the powers of thought. With submission to thy will, I pray for my restoration to health. But vain are all human remedies without thy blessing. With thee nothing is impossible. Speak the word of healing, and thy servant shall live. Spare me in mercy to my family and friends, and give me a further opportunity of working out my salvation. May I yet live to perform my duties more acceptably; and let not the night of death come till the labors of my earthly day are finished. But if thou hast ordered otherwise,—not my will, but thine be done.

While I plead for the health of my body, I would more earnestly pray for that of my soul. Whatever else thou shalt deny me, O deny me not an interest in thy grace. May sickness in the

body bring health to the mind ; and the fruit of affliction be the removal of sin. May I learn that most important lesson, to bless thy name when thou takest away as well as when thou givest. I ask for a tranquil resignation to that fatherly providence which sees the end from the beginning. In all my weakness be thou my stay and support ; in all my sorrows and trials be thou my consolation and refuge. Endue me with patience, fortitude and meekness under the pains of disease and the irksomeness of confinement. Above all prepare me for death. Blot out my transgressions through thy infinite mercy in Christ Jesus ; and dispose me to do what is necessary for the great exchange of worlds. Before I reach heaven may I bear the image of the heavenly ; and while my bodily sufferings lead me more justly to value health and strength, may this sickness teach me to live for immortality. Let me take that view of life from my sick bed, which cannot be taken from any other place ; and henceforth may I regard the world but as the road which conducts to a higher destination.

With the tenderest sympathy I would intercede for others who are sick, beseeching thee to relieve their pains, and to give them a strong faith in that blessed Saviour, who went up to his Father's throne by the steps of suffering.

In his name, O Lord, hear my prayer, and to thee I would render unceasing praise. Amen.



FOR A SICK PERSON WHO HAS SMALL HOPE OF RECOVERY.

Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and who hast not thought a crown of everlasting life too much to promise to thy children; I come to thee as my refuge in the time of danger, my help in the hour of distress. By my present sickness I am gradually brought towards the gate of death; and the hour of my departure apparently draweth nigh. I shall have no power over the spirit to retain it.

I would not forget the many and varied blessings, which have sustained and gladdened me through my past life; yet, most of all, I thank thee for the redemption there is in Christ Jesus, and for the promise of an incorruptible inheritance beyond the grave. In reviewing my conduct, I find cause of humiliation and sorrow. With unfeigned repentance for these errors, and with steadfast faith in thy mercy, let my sins be done away before I go hence, and my pardon sealed in heaven. I would throw myself on thy free and abounding grace held forth in a Redeemer; and do thou say to my soul, 'Be of good cheer, thy sins are forgiven thee; depart in peace.' And being absent from the body, may I be present with the Lord.

— Kind Disposer of all events, help me to do, while I live, the work which remains to be done. If I have injured any, I would make due repara-

tion, and be at peace with all men before I die. Taken from a world to which I cannot return, do thou comfort and guide those objects of my affection whom I leave behind. Provide for them in thy bountiful love, and let thy providence be their stay in this world, and thy salvation their inheritance in the world to come.

And now, O Lord, what wait I for? my hope is in thee. Thou hast brought me to this hour with a Parent's wisdom: O sustain me with a Parent's love. Let no increase of pain produce repining, or draw from me an inconsiderate prayer. Above all, let nothing destroy the order of my thoughts, or weaken the strength of my trust. If this cup may not pass from me except I drink it, thy will be done. Prepare me for the solemn hour, and be with me in it. Let not my faith waver, nor my hope fail. Strengthen me in the last conflict of nature, and carry me safely through every pain. O God, breathe hope and peace into my departing spirit; and when the shadows of death shall compass me about, may beams from the sun of righteousness illumine the dark valley; may thy rod and thy staff comfort me; and let me have a happy transition from this world of sin, trial and suffering, into that rest, which remains for the people of God.

[The following may be added in the hour of death.]

And now, O Lord, thou callest me away. Father, I am coming to thee. When flesh and heart

fail, be thou the strength of my heart and my portion forever. With a christian trust and a calm resignation I now commit my soul into the hands of a faithful Creator. Let me triumphantly pass the gate of death to my joyful resurrection. Living and dying let me be thine. The Lord's will be done. O death! where is thy sting? O grave! where is thy victory? Thanks be to God, who giveth me the victory through Jesus Christ, the Resurrection and the Life. Amen.

AFTER RECOVERY FROM SICKNESS.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits; who forgiveth all thine iniquities, who healeth all thy diseases, who redeemeth thy life from destruction, and who crowneth thee with loving kindness and tender mercy. I praise thee, great Physician of soul and body, that, although thou hast chastened me, thou hast not given me over unto death. I praise thee that thy powerful arm has arrested the progress of my disorder, and helped me out of all my troubles. Thou hast turned my heaviness into joy, and my mourning into gladness. I thank thee for every comfort and alleviation of pain with which thou hast been pleased to furnish me; and especially for the love of my friends,

and the promises of thy Gospel. I acknowledge thy inexpressible goodness in restoring me from the anguish of suffering and from the brink of the grave, to endeared connexions, to enlivened hopes, to new opportunities, and to increased motives for cultivating christian affections, for abounding in good works, and for laying up treasures in heaven.

O Father, let not these opportunities be neglected by me, but be wisely improved to thy glory. Since life is given me anew, let me not devote it to sin, but live to thee who hast spared me. I have experienced thy power and compassion. May I ever live in the exercise of a grateful confidence in both, and be duly sensible of my dependence on thy care and government. I have been brought near to the realities of the world to come; brought to feel the worth of thy favor, and the value of a conscience void of offence. Almighty God, let the convictions I have had of them never be extinguished in my heart. Enable me at all times to entertain that humble contrition for my sins, and that penitential sense of my need of thy mercy, which the nearness of death was instrumental in producing. Help me to appreciate, as I ought, eternal things, and to do all that thou requirest, in order that I may secure thy approbation and friendship. May the resolutions I formed, when sick, now be effectual.

Thou hast enabled me to realize the vanity and

uncertainty of the world. Preserve me from attaching too much importance to its pleasures, honors or possessions ; and assist me constantly to remember how rapidly it is passing away.

Thou hast taught me by sickness the worth of friendship. The offices of kindness which have been performed for me, have, with thy blessing, cheered, consoled and supported me. My God, never let me be insensible of the love of those, whose hearts thou hast warmed with good-will towards me. Make me ready to return their benevolence on every occasion. Let me be softened with humanity towards all who suffer ; and never let me behold the bed of sickness without sympathy and charity.

It was thy gospel, O thou God of all consolation in Jesus Christ, from which my hope was derived when the shadows of death appeared to encompass me. The assurances which it contains of thy forbearance and mercy, and of eternal redemption through thy Son, were the blessed support of my spirit. O give me grace to cling, with faster hold than ever, to this rock of salvation, to abide in the love of Jesus, to follow him undismayed, and constantly to hope through him for justification and future happiness.

Preserver of my being, thou hast now shown me how frail I am ; hast given me a striking proof of the precariousness of life ; and I know, that ere long I shall bid farewell to all whom I

now behold. O may I be prepared for that sickness from which I shall not recover. May I walk by faith and not by sight. May I be concerned to be always ready, and to be found in that frame of mind, which will enable me to welcome death as the messenger of peace.

Holy Father, hear my prayers, I beseech thee, forgive my sins, and make me thine for evermore, through him who was made perfect by suffering. Amen.

AFTER THE DEATH OF A PARENT.

O thou, in whose sight we all are children, thou livest for ever and ever; but unto us thou hast said, Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return. Eternal God, I would adore thee in all thy doings. Even when thou causest trouble and heaviness to fall upon me, it is that I may learn righteousness from thy judgments, and receive profit from thy correction. Thou art calling me to drink very deeply of the cup of sorrow. The fond parent thou gavest me for my guidance, my instruction, my support and comfort, thou hast now taken away, and left me without the protection I have always felt. The places which once knew, are to know this friend no longer. The voice, which spoke wisdom to my early days and guided my inexperienced feet, I am to hear no

more. O God most holy ; believing thou knowest when it is best to call thy creatures to thyself, I would exercise an entire submission. I would be still and know that thou art God. Let me not murmur or be dismayed while I am allowed to call infinite wisdom and infinite power my Father and Friend. Though clouds and darkness are round about thee, yet in thy dealings there is nothing uncertain or severe. Enable me to hold forth an example of that trust, which belongs to a citizen of heaven. In the midst of my grief may the spirit of Christ possess my soul. Sanctify to me this severe affliction ; and enable me to treasure up the sacred words of counsel which came from one who loved me so much. Grant me strength to follow every good example which was placed before me ; and often to call to mind the unwearied exertions which were made to promote my welfare. Grant that seeing others die may teach me also to be ready ; and let me be assured, that my death cannot be cheered with holy hope unless my life has been filled with christian obedience. If death should be sudden, let it find me with the lamp of religion trimmed and burning. Lord of life, I rest on thee. Let thy wisdom be my direction, thy power my support and thy goodness my confidence ; and when I have completed my days on earth, I pray to be united with my departed benefactor in thy heavenly family. O God, give me the consolation which

a trust in thy love and a faith in thy Son is fitted to impart. May the bereavement which separates from me an earthly parent, serve to bring me nearer to thee, my heavenly Parent. O help me to look beyond the days of sorrow the afflictions of time and the hour of death, to that world where weeping, danger and anxiety can never come. Amen.

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AFTER THE DEATH OF A HUSBAND OR WIFE.

O thou, whose ways are to us inscrutable, great, eternal God; thou givest and thou takest away. Thou liftest up and thou castest down. Thou art God alone; infinitely wise and infinitely good. Thou seest the end from the beginning; and in thy purposes of love thou canst not err. Thou settest the solitary in families, and at pleasure dissolvest the connexion. It has seemed good in thy sight to take from me a friend who was as my own soul; the chosen partner of my life; the object of my most affectionate regards; my support and comfort under the labors and anxieties of this mortal state. Forlorn and desolate as I am, I fly to thee beseeching thee to pour into my wounded heart the consolations of thy spirit. O God, by what painful experience art thou teaching me the instability of all earthly enjoyments! But I would not murmur at thy deal-

ings, believing that thy chastisements are those of love ; and that by all these things thou art intending to do me good. Enable me so to use my trials that they shall leave behind a blessing. God forbid, that my present grief should render me unmindful of thy past goodness. I thank thee that I have been permitted so long to share with my departed companion the joys and hopes of existence ; and now that I am left alone, I pray thee to guide me in mercy through the remainder of life ; and then receive me to that world where there is neither sickness, nor sorrow, nor parting. I desire to repose myself, and those who are left with me, under the care of thy providence, assured that I cannot be destitute while thou art my helper, or miserable having thee for my portion. Prepare me for the scenes of adversity I am yet to experience, and may they be so sanctified to me that I shall be made perfect through suffering. Whatever outward blessings thou shalt see fit to deny me, O deny me not the comfort of thy love. Provide me with friends to assist me in my deserted condition ; and give me grace to behave with propriety in all my relations. O God, do thou be my friend, my father, my life, my health, my rest and my joy. Under thy discipline, I desire to submit to thy directions, to refer to thee my actions, and to resign into thy hands all my interests in time and eternity. May this bereavement lead me to place my happiness

in thee, and to look forward to that life which is beyond death, and over which death has no power. In his name, who bore the heaviest cross, I offer my prayer of faith, and would render to thee homage and submission. Amen.

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AFTER THE DEATH OF A BROTHER OR SISTER.

Sovereign Disposer of all events ; our light in darkness and our life in death ; thou hast robbed my heart in mourning, and I come into thy presence with the voice of grief. I come to thee as my Father, and do thou hear me as thy child. Thou hast taken from me one in whom I was comforted, who shared with me the joys of early life, and experienced with me the kindness of affectionate parents. Forcibly hast thou taught me, that the tenderest friendship has no power to retain the departing spirit. O Lord, thou knowest the anguish of my bosom, and seest the pressure of my affliction. But, forbid that I should murmur. I desire to bow in humble resignation to thine appointment, and to read the solemn lesson thou wouldst teach me. As the duties and events of time are the means of education for eternity, may this bereavement promote in me the life of heaven. From thee came the blessing of this friend, and I know thou hast the right to resume it. The Lord gave, and the Lord hath

taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord. Give me that composure of spirit, which shall enable me to receive the consolations of religion; for I well know how dark soever this night of affliction seems, if thou sayest, Let there be light, there shall be light. Gracious Monitor, prepare me to follow this departed friend of my bosom. May I be wiser and holier by thy dealings with me. Soothe my sorrows by the comforting words of Jesus Christ, who is the resurrection and the life. Like him may I bear what thy wisdom shall ordain; and in all my afflictions, however severe, be able to say, Not my will, O God, but thine be done. I earnestly pray that the relatives who have gone may draw me nearer to thee. Holy Father, strengthen me with those principles that will not vanish when death approaches. As I come nearer to the grave, do thou increase my faith, enliven my hope, extend my charity and sanctify my soul. And having led me through this vale of tears to the land of eternal joy, may I meet the just made perfect in thy presence, and glorify thy name for ever. Amen.

AFTER THE DEATH OF A CHILD.

Giver and Receiver of souls; thou seest the end from the beginning, and knowest what is really best for me. I fly to thee, beseeching thee

to sanctify to me the bereavement which fills my heart with grief. Thou hast united me to the objects of my innocent affection by the tenderest ties ; and I bless thee that thou wast pleased to give me my departed child, and to bestow on me the satisfactions and joys which a parent feels. Thou hast now taken away from me this beloved being. Thou hast destroyed my cherished hopes, and filled my heart with mourning. But I would not murmur ; I would bow with resignation to thy sovereign appointment. I give its body to the grave. I commit its soul to thy infinite mercy, to be ministered unto by thy angels, and guarded by thy hand : and never can I sufficiently thank thee, that our Lord Jesus Christ has declared, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven.

Compassionate Father ; console my sorrows, I pray thee, and prevent me from despising thy chastenings or fainting under thy rebuke. May I willingly give up my child from these arms below into the arms of a better Parent above. Henceforth let me consider it as one of my treasures laid up in heaven. I offer my prayer in his name who wept - that we might rejoice, who died that we might live ; and to God, who is over all, be dominion and glory for ever. Amen.

NOT AS I WILL.

BY H. H.

Blindfolded and alone I stand
With unknown thresholds on each hand.
The darkness deepens as I grope,
Afraid to fear, afraid to hope;
Yet this one thing I learn to know
Each day more surely as I go—
That doors are opened, ways are made,
Burdens are lifted, or are laid
By some great law, unseen and still,
Unfathomed purpose to fulfil.
"Not as I will."

Blindfolded and alone I wait;
Loss seems too bitter, gain too late;
Too heavy burdens in the load
And too few helpers on the road;
And joy is weak, and grief is strong,
And years and days so long, so long.
Yet this one thing I learn to know
Each day more surely as I go—
That I am glad the good and ill
By changeless law are ordered still.
"Not as I will."

"Not as I will:" the sound grows sweet
Each time my lips the words repeat.
"Not as I will:" the darkness feels
More safe than light, when this thought steals
Like whispered voice to calm and bless
All unrest and all loneliness.
"Not as I will," because the One
Who loved us first and best has gone
Before us on the road, and still
For us must all His love fulfil.
"Not as I will."







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